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THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2011

MENTORING SERVICE CAN TURN LIVES AROUND

For those with addiction, and hopes of returning to work, help is at hand!

FOR people who have known the despair of drug or alcohol addiction, the fear of finding a way back into the work place is very real – but help is at hand, thanks to a discreet organisation operating in the Vale.

Cardiff and Vale Peer

Mentoring Service provides support to people who have lost their confidence due to addiction and feel they may have not have the skills to cope when they return to a working environment.

One branch of the organisation is based in Barry and the local service manager, Sarah Williams, explained that the 'mentors' who provide support to those

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

seeking help, know exactly what they are talking about.

"We are supported by genuine 'peer mentors' – people who know about drug and alcohol misuse, have been there themselves and have got the T-shirt.

"The service is funded thanks to the European Social Fund and administered by the Welsh Government.

"When we have established contact with someone we invite them to have an assessment with a member of staff, find out their needs and aims and, along with training, go forward to achieve their goal."

Sarah explained that with people under more pressure at work or

financially, and with young people having more disposable income, all ages of society are susceptible to alcohol addiction.

The same can be true of drugs, with a whole range of them causing problems, including the likes of crack cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, cannabis, amphetamines and sometimes prescription drugs.

If a person is battling addiction or has just overcome addiction, a natural concern is that when they return to work someone will know about their past; or that they will believe that if someone talks to them sternly they will suffer from 'paranoia' and think they are not wanted.

Peer mentors like Steve Millard, aged 39, are able to empathise with those seeking help



ABOVE:
Steve Millard helps to build up the confidence of people who have had addiction problems so they can return to the work place.

and develop their skills in dealing with the challenges of the work place.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

'All aboard!' Barry Festival is the next stop for the jumbo bus

FOR the first time in Wales, a jumbo bus built 45 years ago for up to 114 passengers, which spent all of its working life in Hong Kong, will be on public display at the free Barry Festival of Transport on Sunday, June 12, at Hood Road and the former National Welsh bus depot in Broad Street.

It is hoped to offer people free rides on the bus. Mike Taylor for the Barry Festival said: "It's a very unusual bus, even when it was new, and it will certainly stand out in Barry among the 200 visiting vehicles and classic cars that are coming to our rally."

The bus is on loan to and under the care of the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group, who restore old buses, not just from Cardiff but throughout south-east Wales.

The Barry Festival of Transport is free and will be open 10am-5pm.



ABOVE:
The 45-year-old Kowloon Motor Bus, owned by Mr John Shearman, with a capacity for 114 passengers, parked inside the Bus Depot, Barry.

STEP INSIDE RHOOSE

Turn to pages 14 & 15 as we take a closer look at Rhosee and all that it has to offer both locals and visitors

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Trash: where is our pride?



I AM appalled at the grim sight of rubbish on Dock View Road, Barry.

I see it every day as I walk along Dock View Road. The dumped litter and rubbish strewn along the railings (above) is a horrifying sight.

I think it's a serious issue that needs addressing before it becomes a health hazard.

The length of time this has been left to accumulate promotes the idea that it is OK to dump rubbish and leave

it to rot along our paths and in the hedgerows.

Where is our sense of pride and respect for our town? It's shameful and gives younger members of our community the wrong impression.

I'm hoping that by highlighting this problem, something can be done to start a clean-up, and perhaps some intervention to stop this kind of problem becoming a permanent one in the future.

Angela Fagan
Barry

Traffic in Rhose

IN the past few months, 'Pedestrians in the road ahead' signs have been erected in Rhose, along with improved 'SLOW' road markings on the approach to Station Terrace; in addition, an improved 'gateway style entrance' is in the process of being implemented.

This includes the use of yellow backing boards on the 30mph signs which, together with the cutting back of overgrown hedges, makes the signs more conspicuous to approaching drivers. This work and signage has already been commissioned and will be completed shortly.

There are no further traffic calming measures proposed at this time. Following the completion of the gateway signing, the intention is to re-survey traffic to ascertain the effective-

ness of the scheme, and to establish if a reduction in speed has been achieved.

It should also be noted that in the past, following the completion of speed surveys, we have forwarded the information onto the police for their consideration and enforcement.

The proposal for a pedestrian crossing near the Blue Anchor recently suggested by a resident is a new proposal and we will first need to undertake a review of the site to establish the justification for a pedestrian crossing and if it is feasible (ie would it meet required design standards).

This would also include obtaining and analysing the speed, accident and pedestrian data.

The issue concerning the bend outside Marsh House will be investigated further.

Coun Jeffrey James
(Vale Council)

Praise for Vale walks

IM a little late in writing, but I want to tell you how very much I enjoyed the three walks I joined during the recent Valeways Walking Festival.

The seven-mile from Llantwit Major, the eight-and-a-half Ewenny and the five-mile Cowbridge, all had excellent and informed guides, which made the days even more enjoyable.

I usually walk alone, so the weekend was a great pleasure and I look forward to the next venture. Mrs Jo Williams, Llantrithyd.

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WHITE FARM: chance to challenge the experts

NOT too long ago, the chair of the Vale of Glamorgan planning committee, Rhose councillor Jeffery James, stated that when considering planning applications: "It is difficult to oppose it when the officers who are experts have advised that we pass it".

Well, this time it's not too difficult, because the committee report for White Farm presents several clear opportunities for the committee to challenge their experts.

Firstly, there is considerable concern in the community with regard

More fitting name for new school?

IT is with some interest that I note the howls of protest from supporters of the suggestion that the new Welsh medium school in Barry be called after former Carmarthen MP Gwynfor Evans, including contributions from Coun Richard Bertin and the usual suspects from Plaid Cymru, Steffan William and Ian Johnson.

Perhaps a more fitting tribute would be to name the school after one of those whose name is displayed on the boards in Barry Memorial Hall.

Perhaps of more immediate concern to the citizens of the Vale

to increased traffic and the drainage implications: councillors may want to secure unambiguous and escape-proof reassurances on these matters: after all, community concern can be a material consideration.

Commenting on the public open space and the proposed substantial earthworks, a senior council manager has expressed concerns about the need for possible additional funding.

Since other council officials have recommended acceptance, will these additional costs be another burden on taxpayers – or does the council have some other source of income in mind?

We are frequently told by the experts that

should be the growing politicisation of our young schoolchildren.

Coupled with the recent teacher and governor-led involvement of young children from Barry Island Primary School in the referendum campaign, the suggestion that a group of under-11s from the same Welsh language school that was so instrumental in raising funds for the bust of Gwynfor Evans in Barry library, independently without prompting came up with yet another Gwynfor tribute, is too laughable for words!

Kevin Mahoney, Barry.
(The writer stood as a candidate for UKIP in the recent Welsh Assembly elections)

Roll of honour

AT the Memorial Hall, the roll of honour is adorned with the names of the brave who sacrificed their lives for what we take for granted, the choice of an education in Welsh or English, free speech, and living without the fear of persecution.

Without these brave Barry people, our country's future may have

been different.

Take the schoolchildren to the roll of honour and let them see the names and ages of the casualties – and do a little research (we have a wonderful war historian in our town).

Every one of those names is fit to be attached to the new Barry school; nothing political, no squabbling, just honouring a huge sacrifice the people of Barry made for our future.

Andrew Hilton, Barry.

decisions must be in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

So exactly what are these considerations, because the proposals do not appear to be in line with the development plan.

For a start, 5.2h are identified in the plan for housing but the developer seems to want 6.3h, ie 11,000 square metres more.

The development plan also says 7.4h for open space but the report says 6.9h, ie 5,000 square metres less.

Council policy also states the housing should be at a density of 25 units per hectare, but even conceding an over-generous 6.3h would equate to only 157 units: the proposal is for 177 dwellings.

In justifying the scheme, council offi-

cials and the developer repeatedly refer to the development plan as 'indicative', one sentence in the report says that the development plan "indicated approximately" the density.

However, the policy wording is quite explicit and without wriggle-room.

The report also refers to the higher density of the nearby housing, but makes no reference to the fact that those houses existed when the council agreed the White Farm density policy in 2004.

These issues are far from being publicity-seeking slogans; they are substantial matters on which councillors can challenge the experts on the White Farm proposals.

Dennis Harkus, Barry
(FocusBARRY supporter)

Was my old school named after a bag?

YOU report that the Vale Council considers it inappropriate to name a school after a political figure.

Seventy years ago, I attended Gladstone School, Barry, which still bears that name. I always thought that it was named after a political figure.

The only other well-known Gladstone that I can think of is some old bag, often seen hanging around with doctors.

If I am correct, what will be the new name of my old school?
Ivor Arnold, Barry

Irony of what's in a name?

ACHILD wins a competition to name a Welsh medium school Ysgol Cymraeg Gwynfor in memory of one of our more illustrious townsmen.

The Tory council cabinet reject this on the grounds that it is "political". Would they have objected similarly to the use of the name Palmerston for the same reason? Or are their "political" memories just rather short?

The irony of this seems lost on them. One recalls the Tory councillor who a few years ago protested at a photo-

graph of Nelson Mandela in the council chamber on the grounds that he was a "terrorist".

The small-minded attitude displayed in both instances was best expressed by Mrs Thatcher's – "not one of us".

Theresa May, the Home Secretary, has said that a popular conception of the Conservative Party was as 'the Nasty Party'.

Mr Cameron has strenuously tried to alter this, but at the grass roots is it still the case?

Locally, perhaps, a more accurate description might be "the Silly Party".

David Phillips, Barry

'Rethink school name change!'

IAM the deputy chair of governors at Ysgol Sant Baruc and like my fellow governors who have expressed their opinions in the press, I am very disappointed that the Vale Council cabinet has decided to ignore the wishes of the pupils to name the new primary school Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynfor.

It seems when the cabinet got wind of the name which was backed by the school governors on April 12, they hastily made a decision to call the new school the Welsh translation of 'Greenbanks', in an attempt to quickly block the name proposed by the children.

On May 12, the cabinet changed their minds on the name 'Greenbanks' and decided to back one of the runner-up names proposed by the pupils.

Having seen the disappointment of the children who thought they

had picked the name for the new school, I can understand why young people today have little truck for politics and politicians.

Many well-respected people in Barry have put forward excellent reasons why this school should be named after a son of the town; Gwynfor Evans.

The Vale maintains that naming a school after an MP would put parents off sending their children to the new school.

Coun Gordon Kemp was happy to unveil Gwynfor Evans' bust in the library at Kings Square, which was a generous gift by a former teacher at Sant Baruc.

I don't remember Gordon Kemp suggesting that a bust of Gwynfor Evans in the library would drive people away from using its excellent services.

I would like to see the Vale reconsider their decision and I would like to see Alun Cairns MP getting involved to sort this whole mess out.

Shirley Hodges, Barry.

Gwynfor and school name

THERE have been several comments in The GEM recently regarding Gwynfor Evans, and whether a new Welsh medium school should be named after him.

My mother and many of her generation both living and dead, would be outraged by the things said.

There were many courageous pacifists who either submitted to being sent to prison for their beliefs, or went to war as stretcher bearers etc, heroes every one.

Also when was he a

local politician? I have no recollection of him living in Barry and serving the community.

The Vale Council should have explained the 'no politician' rule regarding names for public buildings, but that is typical of this council, themselves first, constituents and families last.

(Name and address supplied).

Footnote: In fairness, it should be pointed out that those promoting the idea do so on the basis of Gwynfor Evans' place in the cultural and political history of Wales and also as a son of Barry.

See more of your letters on page 8 of this week's GEM

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 16)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
09 Thur	01.10	8.7	13.48	8.4
10 Fri	02.12	8.5	14.52	8.4
11 Sat	03.19	8.6	16.04	8.4
12 Sun	04.26	8.5	17.02	8.5
13 Mon	05.35	8.7	18.09	8.9
14 Tues	06.33	9.1	19.00	9.3
15 Wed	07.32	9.5	19.52	9.6
16 Thur	08.22	9.6	20.44	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Companies are fined over a worker's death at Aberthaw

A COMPANY running Aberthaw Power Station and a firm of contractors who were carrying out a £100 million project at the site have been fined a total of £450,000 and each was ordered to pay £30,000 costs at Cardiff Crown Court.

RWE Npower PLC was fined £250,000 and AMEC was fined £200,000.

RWE pleaded guilty to an offence under the Health and Safety at Work Act by failing to provide a safe place of work.

AMEC pleaded guilty to a breach of health and safety at work regulations.

The case arose following the tragic death in June 2007 of 49-year-old Christopher Booker, of St Athan, who plunged to his death from a platform in an area of the power station known as the 'Seal Pit'.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones expressed his condolences to Mr Booker's family. He added: "I recognise that no sentence can alleviate or

compensate the loss of such a loved family man."

At the time, said the judge, Mr Booker was assisting in maintenance work.

He said there was a fundamental misunderstanding between the two defendants as to who was actually responsible for safety at the relevant time.

The risk to which Mr Booker was exposed was very obvious, said the judge, and should have been seen by both defendants.

There was, he said, no explanation as to why Mr Booker went onto the platform, but there was nothing to indicate that access was restricted.

Said the judge: "The accident was very foreseeable."

He added: "It was an accident waiting to happen and should have been spotted."

Both defendants, he said, had excellent records and the offences represented isolated breaches of the act and they had since done everything possible to prevent any occurring again.

Ian Dixey for the health and safety executive said Mr Booker had been a

casual worker employed when work began on a desulphurisation project.

The cost of the project was estimated at £100million and was undertaken by AMEC.

Meetings had been held to co-ordinate work in the Seal Pit.

When Mr Booker fell 12 metres, divers in the pit and others set about rescuing him but he died instantly.

Mr Dixey said the area had been inadequately lit and the gate to the walkway had been open.

The cause of the accident, he said, was the wrong choice of control measures.

"This was an accident which could have been avoided," he said. There had been, he said, a great deal of confusion despite a vast amount of planning.

Mr Dixey said there had been no integrated safety plan and control measures were inadequate.

Both defendants had failed to recognise what were obvious dangers.

Lloyd Williams QC for RWE said the company acknowledged the gravity of what occurred and profoundly regretted the accident.

The company, he said, had pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

Mr Booker's death, he said, had had a significant effect on the company which operated 10 power stations.

It was, he said, the company's first fatal accident and procedures have since been "tightened up". Throughout the investigation, said Mr Williams, the company had co-operated fully with the health and safety executive.

Sadly, he said, there had been a misunderstanding between the two companies.

At no time, said Mr Williams, had the risks been wholly ignored and instantly the company set up a board of inquiry.

A claim by Mr Booker's widow had been fully resolved.

Richard Matthews QC for AMEC said that from the start the company had accepted its failing and everyone involved had been deeply affected by Mr Booker's death.

"What could be learned has been learned. The project was massive and hazardous and the breach of the act was isolated and unusual."

AJ SICLUNA

NEW TOWN MAYOR FOR PENARTH



PENARTH'S new Town Mayor, Coun Anthony Ernest, was recently installed at the annual meeting of the town council.

The new Mayor is pictured above with his wife, Gaynor, who will accompany him as Mayoress for the next 12 months.

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ABOVE:
Leanne Whitehorn with her Miss Wales sponsor Janet Moisan of Jamima Bridal.

Leanne proves that 'big is beautiful' in Miss Wales

A YOUNG Vale woman is hoping to smash one or two stereotypes when she competes in the final of Miss Wales – by proving that big really is beautiful.

Leanne Whitehorn, aged 18, and a size 14, says she hopes that her involvement in the competition will help change perceptions of the larger woman.

She was the 'first runner-up' in Miss Vale of Glamorgan and will take to the stage in Miss Wales at St David's Hall on July 2.

Leanne, of St Athan, explained: "I am a proud size 14 and hope to break

stereotypes and boost other girls' self esteem by being a curvy beauty queen.

"Like all little girls I dreamt of being in beauty pageants and wearing a beautiful ball gown with a tiara on my head. I always loved to watch shows such as Miss World and Miss Universe.

"I loved how effortlessly beautiful they all were, tall and glamorous.

"However one thing remained the same in all of them, they were all very thin.

"As I got older, I started to develop curves. The curvier I got, the less I looked like these beauty queens."

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Despite that, Leanne was determined not to be deterred from competing.

"Despite not having their fashionable physique, I always loved my curves. In today's society young girls are made to feel bad for having hips, thighs and breasts, and I got tired of hearing girls everywhere complaining they weren't thin enough.

"Miss Wales is all about giving confidence to girls everywhere – which is why I decided to enter.

"I want to show young girls everywhere that being curvy is just as beautiful as being thin. I

hope that girls seeing me, a size 14 as a finalist for Miss Wales, will realise they are beautiful and shouldn't feel held back by society's stereotypes that skinny equals beautiful."

One of the rounds in Miss Wales is to wear an evening gown and Leanne's search did pose problems.

"When it came to finding my pageant dress I struggled. Every dress I liked was a size 6 to 8, even finding a size 10 was a push!

"Most of the dresses in my size were made to cover up my curves and not show them off.

"When I had to find a sponsor, I must admit I was hesitant at first. I thought my size would

hold me back.

"However when I went to make my presentation to Jamima Bridal, a boutique in Llantwit Major, which also sells pageant and prom dresses, Janet, the owner, was more than thrilled to be involved.

"Finally, I had found beautiful dresses for curvier girls! Janet was thrilled to see a girl of my size in a pageant, and loved the opportunity to sponsor someone with curves – as well as give me a beautiful pageant dress which shows my curves!"

Leanne, who is currently taking her A-Levels at Llantwit Major sixth form, said:

"Together we hope to encourage girls all over to embrace their curvier bodies! After all if we

don't, who else will?"

"Miss Wales is such a wonderful opportunity and I really hope to change the stereotypes that beautiful women only come in a size 8."

Janet, her sponsor, said: "Leanne came in to pitch for sponsorship and we got on very well, and I thought we could work together.

"She is a nice, rounded girl and Jamima Bridal has nice dresses for girls of that size – so it means we are a good match. I will also be going along to Miss Wales to support her."

The Miss Wales competition helps to raise funds for The Joshua Foundation, a south Wales charity which supports children with terminal cancer and their families.

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Open gardens in the Vale

BONVILSTON VILLAGE GARDENS
(Entry £3, open Sunday June 12, 12-5pm)

Bonvilston is a pleasant rural village with a mix of interesting old houses and more recent small developments.

Gardens include: a colourful, productive garden on a modest plot offering year round interest; a productive kitchen garden; a one-acre garden surrounding a barn conversion with herbaceous borders, veggie garden, chickens and ducks; a courtyard garden with wonderful views across the Vale, a Japanese style garden, and much more.

CAE GWYN, 24 PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
(Entry £3.50, open June 12, from 12-5pm)

A secret garden surrounded by woodland with many attractive features including gravel garden, pergolas, sweeping lawns, vegetables and a large pond. Although still in development, there is lots to see with colourful planting and hardy exotics.

COLWINSTON village gardens
(Entry £5, open June 12, 12-5pm)

Seven different gardens in a rural village of mixed developments. Ranges from formal to cottage gardens to productive vegetable gardens. A dazzling variety of planting, herba-

ceous and shrubs, including a circa.1900 baptism pool at Cynma House.

BORDERVALE PLANTS, SANDY LANE, YSTRADOWEN
(Entry £2.50, open June 12, 10am-5pm)

Within mature woodland valley, with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; wild flower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats. Children must be supervised. The nursery specialises in unusual plants.

PENTYRCH GARDENS, CARDIFF
(Entry £5, open June 12 from 11 - 5.30pm)

Group of five gardens offering something to suit all interests. Cottage gardens with exuberant borders, ingenious recycling, gravel garden and acers, an award winning garden with seasonal herbaceous borders, vegetable gardens, wisteria and clematis and beautiful planting.

TY DERI, CARDIFF
Opening with Pentyrch Gardens and also alone on June 15.
(Entry £3, open 11 til 6pm)

Award winning garden with specimen trees, water feature surrounded by seasonal herbaceous borders. Rear garden includes unusual plants, raised vegetable beds, large fruitage and greenhouse.

MOUNTAIN BIKE THEFTS - PLEA

POLICE are appealing for help after mountain bikes were stolen from house garages in Court Road, Barry, recently.

The first burglary occurred between 11pm on May 30 and 8am on May 31, when entry was gained via an insecure window.

Three mountain bikes were stolen: one was adult size, orange in colour with the word 'Integra' written on the frame.

Also stolen were a grey coloured junior size bike with the words 'cascade download' written in orange on the frame; and a child's mountain bike red and white in colour.

Another burglary occurred overnight on June 1 – 2 when entry was also gained to a garage via an insecure door.

Stolen were a dark grey Falcon make mountain bike with a red, white and blue seat, along with a second bike, also grey in colour, with the word 'Carera' written on the frame.

Officers are appealing to anyone with information to call 101, or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 11.

Family service in church

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a special family service for Pentecost on Sunday, June 12, at 10 am.

There will be opportunities for all ages to participate in this joyful and uplifting service, to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. Refreshments will be served afterwards – all are welcome.

News stories wanted...Call the GEM on 01446 774484!

Barry man's ASBO for persistent offences

A 32-year-old man from Barry has received a four-year Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) for persistent criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Nicholas Lincoln, of Kingsland Crescent, received the ASBO on conviction at Barry Magistrates Court for an offence of drunk and disorderly behaviour.

He has been the subject of three previous orders, the last of which

expired earlier this year, prior to Lincoln going on to offend again.

The ASBO prohibits Lincoln from entering any licensed premises in the Barry area, other than shops, and bans him from being intoxicated or consuming alcohol in any public place within the Vale of Glamorgan. The order lasts for four years.

PC Mike Hawkes, anti social behaviour co-ordinator for the Vale of Glamorgan, said: "This individual has been given plenty of opportunities to curb his anti-social and



criminal behaviour, yet once the latest ASBO elapsed, he reverted back to his old ways.

"This positive action in securing a further ASBO demonstrates the Safer Vale Partnership is tackling anti-social behaviour within our communities and will not tolerate this type of behaviour.

"If Lincoln breaches this order, he will be arrested and placed before the courts. We urge the public and local residents to contact the police if they see him in breach of any of the conditions of his ASBO."

PC Hawkes can be contacted at Barry Police station, on 01446 450200.

NATIONAL TRUST COULD TAKE OVER AND MANAGE DYFFRYN GARDENS

THE Vale Council is in discussions with the National Trust over a plan to lease Dyffryn Gardens to the trust.

Dyffryn House and Gardens could then be managed by the National Trust in future, should Vale councillors give the go ahead.

However, the council will have to pay an immediate £1.5 million to the trust for "essential improvements" – and another £6.9 million for the trust to spend on further work.

The £1.5 million is already budgeted for, but the council would have to borrow the £6.9 million.

However, the council can set against the fact that it currently spends £550,000 each year in keeping the gardens open, having acquired the house and gardens after local government reorganisation in 1996.

The National Trust would get in return a 50-year lease (with a break clause after 20), so it appears that the council would save £11 million over those 20 years, less

the interest charges on the £6.9 million). Officers involved in preparing the report have described the council's costs as "broadly unchanged" over 20 years.

The cabinet of the Vale Council were due to consider the report that recommends leasing the house to the trust, yesterday (June 8) as The GEM was going to press.

Coun Gordon Kemp, the Leader of the council, said: "We understand the proposal could guarantee the house and gardens a bright future. The council has made great strides in renovating the gardens and progressing the renovation of the house with a view to eventually opening it to the public.

"However this beautiful property could benefit from the National Trust's vast experience in renovating, managing and marketing such sites. The cabinet will be carefully considering the report."

Approximately 50,000 people visit Dyffryn Gardens each year, with many expressing a wish to see the house renovated and open for visitors.

It is believed the number of visitors could double under the National Trust's management, bringing economic and tourism benefits to the Vale.

John Morgan, The National Trust's director for Wales said: "We welcome the opportunity to work with council and to look at ways of protecting and enhancing Dyffryn Gardens for future generations.

"Should discussions be successful, our priority would be to build on the council's work of restoring this special place.

"We would be focused on continuing the restoration of the garden rooms, arboretum and parts of the house while encouraging local communities to

enjoy the facilities and to work with us to create new opportunities for social enterprise and recreation."

Since the Vale Council became responsible for Dyffryn, a programme of restoration of the gardens has progressed, securing more than £6 million of Heritage Lottery Fund grant (HLF). This has included restoration of the unique gardens to their

original design and the development of facilities including a café, gift shop, play area and education centre. Works are nearing completion.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently granted a further £600,000 towards partial restoration of the House.

PHILIP IRWIN

Helping addicts back on track

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Steve explained: "When I first heard about the service, I was using a detox service because I had a problem with substance misuse.

"I saw a pamphlet about a 12-week course with the peer mentoring service, which publicised how the service supported people and got them back on track."

Now Steve has recovered he has become a pro-active role model to others. "The service that

we offer can play a major part in people's recovery.

"I can see up to 20 people in a week, some in groups, others on a one-to-one basis.

"Because some people have a past, they find it hard to get back on their feet. Our message is: there is a way out if you put the effort in."

Cardiff and Vale Peer Mentoring Service is on 01446 743607; or email sarah.williams@kaleidoscopeproject.org.uk.

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TWO DECADES AT POONCHOLAI HOME

How Barry teachers make life better for Tamil Nadu children

TWO Barry teachers are reflecting on the result of 25 years of volunteering in a deprived part in India – and they can see that they have made a huge difference to the lives of local children.

Five years after they first volunteered there, they started a small children's home, and now the founders of Poonchulai Children's Home in South India, Carol and Gareth Evans of Barry, can hardly believe that they will shortly be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its opening.

Carol was formerly the deputy headteacher of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive (as Carol Clarke) and Gareth was the headmaster of King's Monkton Secondary School in Cardiff.

However, it was in 1986 that they started volunteering in one of the most deprived areas of Tamil Nadu during the school summer holidays.

They used their skills to train some young locals to give literacy and numeracy education

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

to bonded labour children.

Carol explained what bonded meant: "Thousands of children in that area work 12-hour shifts in match and fire-work factories from the age of six and have little or no chance of an education, and therefore the possibility of a decent future."

The following year, they opened a feeding centre for sufferers of TB of all ages – and one for abandoned elderly people.

A few years later, they opened what was intended to be a small children's home, but within a month they were maintaining 30 children aged four to 10.

Currently, Poonchulai Children's Home (registered charity 1092994) cares for more than 70 children aged between four and 18 on the campus, with an additional 12 in university, college or training places.

Poonchulai started life in a rented building; was moved four years later to a very simple purpose-built home and in 2004 the foundation stone was

laid for a lovely large and airy building outside Tirunelveli which was finally opened in 2006.

Carol told The GEM: "It took a huge amount of dedicated fundraising and the kindness and generosity of many people before the building was finally completed and much of this money came from the people of Barry, from schools, church groups, clubs and associations."

"The trust will always be indebted to those kind people."

The lives of hundreds of children have been radically changed by their time in Poonchulai, where they have received regular good nutrition, medical and educational support and, most importantly for these children who have been damaged by their early experi-

ences, a caring and emotionally warm environment.

"Children are admitted having had traumatic experiences and would otherwise lead their lives as beggars or in the Dickensian factories that inevitably cause a total breakdown of health."

"Their lives are completely changed by Poonchulai and without exception our children have gone on to lead productive and secure lives."

Local groups can hear more about Poonchulai and the children who live there by inviting Carol to deliver a talk and Power Point presentation.

She would be delighted to come for the first time, or to return to any of the Barry groups who have welcomed her in the past. She can be contacted on 01446 700543.

FocusBARRY puts knowledge to the test!

SUPPORTERS of FocusBARRY, the community group aiming to promote the needs and aspirations of local people, held a social evening at the Millwood Inn, Severn Avenue, last Friday evening.

The picture team quiz, *So you think you know Barry?*, gave people a chance to show just how much they knew about our town with some high scoring results.

The question was: *Do you know the current name of this street?* Answer: *Newlands Street.*

The quiz was followed by a short bingo game and a fundraising raffle.

Town councillor Keith Lewis said: "It was a very pleasant evening with a good turn-out of local people, including several new faces. It's good to see Barry people showing an interest in the town and enjoying the experience at the same time."

Anyone wishing to support or join the group, can contact FocusBARRY at 1 Lewis Street, Barry, CF62 6JW, email us at FocusBARRY@live.co.uk or leave a message on 01446 721019.

The First Minister welcomes Queen to opening of Senedd



A ROYAL OCCASION AT THE SENEDD!

BRIDGEND'S AM, First Minister Carwyn Jones, was on duty this week to welcome the royal party to the opening of the Senedd.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, while the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall also attended. Pictures by GLYN EVANS

ABOVE: The Queen is flanked by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, and the Presiding Officer, Rosemary Butler.



ABOVE and LEFT: The First Minister shares a joke with Prince Charles.

Charity's new patron

AGE CONCERN Cardiff & the Vale has confirmed Ilora Gillian Finlay, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, will be the charity's new patron.

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From CARDIFF join Bus connectors for Penarth Pier - Service 50a departs Central Station (Stand J2) 45mins before ship departs & meets ship on return. Bus fares to be paid on board. Penarth Pier is 20mins from M4-Junction 33. On street Car Parking

HOLM ISLANDS

FRIDAY JUNE 10 Leave 11am back 5.15pm
Visit Clevedon and steam round the 'Channel Islands' of Sleep Holm & Flat Holm - see the towering cliffs - seabirds & lighthouse £23 SC £21

RIVERS & ISLANDS EXPLORER

FRIDAY JUNE 10 Leave 11am back 5.15pm
Cruise the River Severn and Bridges and round the Holm Islands - Flat Holm and Sleep Holm £25 SC £23

ILFRACOMBE - GLORIOUS DEVON

SATURDAY JUNE 11 Leave 11.45am back 9pm

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 8pm

SATURDAY JUNE 18 Leave 11am back 8pm

SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm

SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 9pm

Visit the seaside at Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon £31 Seniors only £29 on weekdays! On June 18 you can also enjoy a cruise exploring the National Trust Coast of Exmoor £33 *June 11 Return by coach from Clevedon

Buy Tickets Onboard When You Sail or at Cardiff and Penarth Tourist Information Centres and Cardiff Bus

PORTRICAWL & HERITAGE COAST

Children Travel Free!

SUNDAY JUNE 12 Leave 1.15pm back 7pm
Visit Portlincawl £19 SC £17 or stay aboard for a cruise along the Glamorgan Heritage Coastline £21 SC £19

*One free ticket with every adult ticket purchased

MINEHEAD & PORLOCK BAY

MONDAY JUNE 13 Leave 2.15pm back 7pm

MONDAY JULY 11 Leave 12.30pm back 5.15pm

Cruise to charming West Somerset & visit Minehead £25.95 SC £23.95 Or enjoy the full cruise to view the beautiful West Somerset Coast & Porlock Bay £27.95 SC £25.95

L & B RAILWAY & Visit LYNNMOUTH

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 9pm

SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 9pm

Cruise to Ilfracombe and visit Lynmouth, the Switzerland of England before enjoying a trip on the Lynton & Barnstaple narrow gauge railway in North Devon inclusive fare £41

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CLOVELLY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 9pm
Don't miss the only chance to sail to Clovelly - cruise past the timeless village town viewing stunning coastline and dramatic Hartland Point with towering cliffs £37 SC £35 Visit Clovelly with time ashore £41 Limited Availability

EVENING SHOWBOAT

SATURDAY JUNE 18 Leave 8pm back 11pm
Step Aboard and let the band entertain you. Bring friends and family along for a great night out! £19 Groups of 6 or more only £17

Visit LUNDY ISLAND

June 19th - Annual Church Service on Lundy

SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm

SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 9pm

Visit Lundy Island - explore this enchanting National Trust Island with spectacular views - seabirds - Church of St Helena & Marisco Tavern - inclusive fare £41

FIREWORKS SHOWBOAT

SATURDAY JULY 9 Leave 3.30pm back 10.30pm

Cruise the Holm Islands and see Fireworks as the band entertain you! £25 Groups of 6 or more only £22.50

3 RIVERS & 5 BRIDGES

SUNDAY JULY 10 Leave 11am back 9pm

Visit Clevedon £15 Cruise on the River Avon, through the spectacular Avon Gorge and the rivers Severn and Wyre

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ROYAL CEREMONY AT THE ASSEMBLY OPENS A NEW CHAPTER FOR WALES

WE gathered in the Senedd on Monday evening for an inspiring ceremony, led by Rev Aled Edwards, before the official opening of the Assembly by the Queen on Tuesday.

With contributions from all the faiths in Wales, starting with verses from the Koran and finishing with a Blessing by the Archbishop of Wales, powerful statements were also made by young people about human rights, and a Hindu dance included a participant from Barry.

The new Presiding Officer, Rosemary Butler AM, made her statement of commitment and the Assembly Members present were reminded throughout the ceremony of our roles, duties and responsibilities as we start this fourth session of the National Assembly for Wales.

With our ministerial duties mapped out from the day of appointment, our work commenced within a week of the election following the First Minister's

appointment. My responsibilities as Leader of the House, bring me into close working relationships with all members from all parties across the Chamber, especially their representative 'business managers', as we work through a new set of standing orders for the setting up of committees and agree a format for Assembly and Government business.

This week, we will be agreeing the first set of 'interim' committees to get down to work, including the popular Petitions Committee, Public Accounts and Constitutional Affairs.

The arrangements for the new committees, which will be the first to be wholly responsible for legislation (without requiring approval from Westminster) will be set up as the First Minister makes his statement on the legislative programme for the new Government. There will also be opportunities for Assembly Member Bills.

Before the Whitsun recess, Members had the first opportunity to question the First Minister. This set the scene and tone for the

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

important weekly FM Questions event, following my business statement, with questions forthcoming from across the Chamber for statements and debates on topical issues.

One of the new Labour Members, Mark Drakeford, asked me for a statement on the situation regarding Southern Cross, which is causing great concern for the residents, relatives and workforce in these homes.

This week, a further question has been asked and the Minister for Social Services will reply, following her discussions with local

authorities on the action they are taking on this matter. Next week, Government and Opposition debates will take place and there will be questions to Ministers, starting with education and local government.

As well as my weekly business statement, I also have a set of questions every four weeks on finance and equalities, as part of my portfolio of responsibilities.

Over the past few weeks, I have been updated by officials and consulted with finance ministers from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

We are all in the same roles following the election, so there is some continuity in inter-governmental arrangements.

A quadrilateral meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, is also being set up over the course of the next few weeks.

Financial matters are at the forefront of our agenda following the elections and that was clear from the meeting of the First Ministers of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland last week.

Ahead of a joint min-

isterial committee chaired by the Prime Minister this week, the heads of government of the devolved administrations issued a statement calling for the UK Government to embrace reforms as part of a 'progress agenda' embracing economic, financial and constitutional reform across the UK.

The statement said: "We believe it is now time for the agenda of respect to deliver an agenda for progress on the issues of the great-

est concern to those who elected us, including economic growth."

With the toughest budget settlement for Wales now being implemented, our work is cut out to protect our public services and support the economic renewal despite more pessimistic IMF forecasts and the grim news on May 25 that household spending has slumped by 0.6 per cent in the first three months of the year – much worse than expected.

The Chancellor may

not subscribe to a Plan B, but the Welsh Government is clearly geared up to a budget strategy that prevented the capital cuts being made in the 2010 May Budget – to help maintain our capital spending plans for schools and hospitals.

Also, allocations have been made to address pressures including an injection of funds to assist in meeting orthopaedic pressures in the NHS.

The Queen presided over the official open-

ing of the fourth session of the Assembly this week, but work started on May 6 to deliver for the people of Wales.

This will take us through the most challenging times we have experienced, with new powers, new opportunities, new Members and a renewed sense of purpose for the Welsh Government in 2011.

The ceremonies on Monday and Tuesday this week made sure we were clear what would be expected of us by the people of Wales.

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'BUY BINS AND RECYCLE WASTE'

AS residents of St Athan, my daughter and I have been receiving fortnightly collections of general waste, along with weekly collections of food waste and recycled waste for some considerable time.

We have only found it necessary to visit the site at Llandow when having work done on our houses.

Any excess furniture is collected free by appointment by

Visible Services or collected free by a well-known charity.

The food waste bins are perfectly adequate and lidded, so do not smell – and we no longer suffer cats and birds ripping open the black bags, as there's no food in them.

My advice is to get organised, buy a few bins for recycled waste, and get on with it!

Rachel Harris, St Athan

'Be responsible ...and recycle'

ICOULD not disagree more with John W Radcliffe's letter in the June 2 edition of The GEM.

If these so-called caring citizens actually did care about people, the environment and the planet we live on, they would be responsible citizens disposing of their rubbish and recycling as the council advises.

Residues of pet and other food containers and left-over food should all go into food recycling bins.

As for the issue of

disposable nappies, if people decide that they have to use them (instead of one of the more environmentally-friendly options), these should be appropriately disposed of.

In short, if you have problems with smelly rubbish bags, it is nobody's fault but your own!

The council provides adequate rubbish and recycling collections.

If people cannot be bothered to use these facilities properly, then shame on them.

L Jones, Barry.

Email us your views at:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Reader asks: 'MUST CARS RULE EVERYTHING IN OUR TOWN?'

THE Waitrose plans at Cowbridge propose that the footpath running at the back of Holy Cross church to the High Street should disappear beneath tarmac car-parking, along with the mature trees that line it. Do people realise this?

The footpath is a vital route to the shops which we must not lose – it is entirely enclosed and totally free from cars, affording a safe walk-way to the centre of town, which I truly appreciate and use every day.

The same could not be said for a re-routed path

'WONDERFUL DAY OUT AT DYFFRYN'

LAST month, we planned a trip to Dyffryn Gardens to celebrate my husband's birthday.

We were told about the contents of one of the letters in your letters column, titled 'A poor show at Dyffryn Gardens', but decided to visit the gardens, irrespective of the reader's negative comments.

Our party consisted of six family members and we had a wonderful day and the weather was very kind.

Everywhere we walked, we enjoyed the different gardens, so much to see and not enough time; I am a keen gardener myself so I will have a critical eye.

We were so glad that we went and hope to return to Dyffryn.

Christine Morgan, Carmarthen

which would run the gauntlet in Waitrose's car-park!

The alternative, Southgate archway, is narrow and problematic and very difficult for parents with buggies or small children.

Even going through the park, you end up on The Limes, which is also unsafe for pedestrians.

Let Waitrose come, if they must, but surely they could stick to the current footprint of the Hurrans site?

I know this would mean slightly fewer car-parking spaces, but aren't there already too many cars attracted into the very heart of our small market town, which was never designed for them? Must the car rule everything?

M Hopwood, Cowbridge

'MP wrong to accept grant'

IT'S an absolute disgrace that Alun Cairns MP has claimed £29,000 resettlement, after stepping down as an Assembly member.

He is part of a (central) government that is slashing public spending, reducing the winter fuel allowance paid to pensioners, and cutting money that is paid to the sick and disabled.

This is taxpayers' money that can be put to much better use.

There was no resettlement – he went from being an AM to an MP. He should return the money and apologise.

G Smith, Llantwit Major

'Airport must improve customer relations'

THE Welsh Government, before spending £26.5 million on improving access to Cardiff Airport, should insist on an undertaking from the airport that they will improve their customer relations – as at the present time they are non-existent.

I have not spoken to one person that has a good word to say about the airport with regard to how they treat their customers.

CJ Wilkins, Welsh St Donats

Plastic tops for charity

DOES anyone collect plastic milk bottle tops for recycling, in aid of charity? I have a stock of clean plastic milk bottle tops to give to a local charity that can make use of them. Please phone 01446 795533 (evenings).

Richard Percy, Llantwit Major

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D673.

● £2,000: 587075.

● The rollover, which now stands at £4,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 889115, 660161, 706440, 561001, 189316, 693252, 239766, 780055, 527458, 314612, 419893, 147892, 241895, 898879, 443587, 530497, 813527, 141582, 841130, 464415.

● £5: 508014, 710594, 602688, 326240, 871174, 859522, 387076, 757434, 772457, 300827, 577117, 153554, 744167, 571708, 548746, 612547, 998391, 672521, 708473, 574402, 884777, 530154, 863473, 423507, 807864, 368874, 213599, 524961, 270835, 633405, 335231, 251226, 314304, 894725, 391252, 122383, 537006, 336084, 356787, 388252, 555822, 238803, 250711, 224996, 495939, 855540, 874103, 335694, 361200, 860206, 217932, 396231, 778483, 417390, 516529, 282600, 428282, 851780, 754743, 221603.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.



JOIN THE ZUMBA PARTY!

There are now eleven Zumba classes taking place at the Vale of Glamorgan's leisure centres every week. Don't miss out on these high energy Latin dance workouts!

As well as Zumba, our fitness classes for ages 14+ include Trixxer bikes, Easyline, Circuits, Boxercise, Step Aerobics, Pilates, Yoga and more! Barry Leisure Centre also now has a brand new dance studio in which you can enjoy a number of fitness classes in stylish surroundings. To see our fitness class timetables for each of the Vale's leisure centres, and to find out more about each class as well as our LifeStyle memberships, please go online at...



www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres

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"As this review is still being undertaken, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further." **PHILIP IRWIN**

Out and About with The GEM

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Dinas Powys Art Group holds an exhibition this Saturday and Sunday at 10am-4.30pm in Lee Hall, Dinas

Powys. Admission 50p. Voices in the Park

A COMMUNITY choir will burst into song for the first time next Tuesday evening in Crossways Church, Barry.

As part of Victoria Park's Proms in the Park event on August 14, there will be a choir formed to perform.

The mixed group of all ages will meet on Tuesdays between 6pm and 7.15pm to prepare for the big day, and they will perform a number of pop classics and Glee songs, including 'Penny Lane', 'Hallelujah' and 'Fields of Gold'.

The community choir idea is a partnership between Jon Grettex the park manager, Alice Jones the director of Park Ladies Choir, and Dot Connell, the director of Barry Male Voice Choir.

Anyone can join, and all will be welcome. Phone 01446 744914 for more details.

Free 'voyage' for children!

THIS Sunday, children can enjoy all the fun and excitement of sailing aboard the famous Paddle Steamer Waverley, completely free!

The magnificent Waverley – the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world – sails from Penarth Pier at 1.15pm for a cruise viewing the spectacular Heritage Coast of Wales.

Everyone can then choose to visit Porthcawl with its famous fun-fair or stay aboard for the afternoon trip to view Nash Point lighthouse.

Passengers can also board Waverley at Porthcawl Harbour at 3.30pm for the afternoon cruise to Nash Point lighthouse.

Call 0845 1304647 for further information.

Flower festival

THE Friends of St Lawrence Church, Fort Road, Lavernock Point, are opening the listed building for two days (Saturday, June 18 from 10am to 5pm and Sunday, June 19 from 12 noon to 5pm) for an unusual flower festival.

The theme of the festival will be communication, based on Marconi and his legacy.

Barry Amateur Radio Society, led by Glyn Jones, will be on hand to discuss and provide information about Marconi and his link with Lavernock Point.

Peter Bird of the Friends is providing a model of the Flat Holm to Lavernock link as background to the festival.

All visitors will receive a warm welcome, the co-ordinator for this event is the Rev Margaret Stark, honorary chaplain to the Friends of the Church. Enquiries to 02920 707776 or 02920 701303.

Angling sessions

PENARTH Angling Club is holding taster sessions for the family on Sunday, June 26, on Penarth Pier from 1-5pm.

Volunteers from the club will be on hand to help and all equipment is provided. Telephone 01446 704748.

NSPCC

garden party
NSPCC Barry is holding its annual garden party at Dyffryn Gardens on Wednesday, July 13, at

3.15pm. Telephone 01446 746829 for details.

Floral demo

THE Barry Floral Society meets at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, on June 14 at 2.15pm, when Mrs Brigitte Mantion, of Worcester, will give a demonstration 'Come Walk with Me'.

New members are welcome. **Charity coffee**

A CHARITY coffee morning will be held in the All Saints Church Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on June 16 from 10am-12noon.

Admission 50p; all proceeds for charity.

Summer festival at Merthyr Mawr

A SUMMER festival will be held at St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr, on Sunday, June 12.

There will be music from the St Donat's singers at 3.30pm and tea/coffee with home made cakes, and also a raffle, tombola (with every ticket a winner), jewellery/scarf, china and craft stalls. Children will be very welcome.

The festival continues at 6pm with evening song by Bishop David Yeoman will preach.

Visitors are welcome to stay, or just attend the special service.

Support group's meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, June 14 between 11am and 1pm.

Contact the group leader, Barbara Clissett, on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Calls are charged at standard rate.

Annual transport festival takes place this weekend...

SUNDAY, June 12, sees the annual Barry Festival of Transport take place at the former Western Welsh bus depot in Broad Street, Barry, and also at the festival site on the former Barry railway goods yard in Hood Road.

The event will run from 10am to 5pm and entry is free to both transport exhibitors and visitors alike.

The organisers, the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group, restores old buses not just from Cardiff, but throughout south-east Wales.

Mike Taylor, chairman, said: "The Festival of Transport attracts a wide range of classic, historic or vintage buses and coaches, but we also try to make the day interesting for all, with some commercial vehicles, a number of classic cars and motorcycles of all ages."

"Most of the vehicles were made in this country by long lost names, like Leyland, AEC, Austin, Morris, and Humber, but some may come from other parts of the world, though they are generally vehicles you will not see on our roads today."

"We have our own collection of heritage buses here in Barry and other owners bring their vehicles from many parts of Wales

and England and it is a privilege to see the many hours of work that have been spent in restoration," said spokesman Tudor Thomas.

"The festival is a fun day for all the family and old fashioned Ford cars or Bristol buses can mix on the day with the odd Cadillac or Harley Davidson."

"This year we have a mid 1960s Hong Kong bus that is rather special. We never know what will turn up, as exhibitors book late."

"What is certain is that there will be a local Welsh flavour, with many old buses from around Wales."

"The bus depot in Barry is home to more than 30 vintage buses, nearly all with a south Wales background with the oldest being over 60 years – a number have been restored by members, while others await restoration."

"The depot also hosts a display room which features historic uniforms, old ticket machines, driver and conductor badges, former bus company records and photographs; and we at the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group are always anxious to add to this memorabilia collection, especially if it has a Welsh collection."

St Donat's concert

ON Sunday (June 12) the St Donat's Atlantic Choral will sing 'Gloria' by Antonio Vivaldi, and works by Handel, Bellini and Donati, in a concert called Musica Italiana.

The 50-strong choir, formed two years ago, has invited guest soloists Lucia Pauline Vernon and Sarah Maxted, and Elin Adams (oboe) to perform with them at The Bradenstoke Hall, Atlantic College, St Donat's.

Contact 01446 799100 or www.stdonats.com for details.

There's another chance to see the choir in action on Sunday, June 19 at a garden party in aid of the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

This latest X Men outing certainly is First Class!

WHETHER you subscribe to the world of *Final Destination* or not, fate certainly does seem to get its way; when Matthew Vaughn departed *X Men: The Last Stand*, after feeling that he didn't have enough time to make a film worthy of following the superb *X2*, it seemed his ties to that universe had been cut forever.

Fast forward five years, and Vaughn is now back in the bosom of the family as he takes on that very universe, and tells the tale of how the characters of the franchise became who they are.

In *X Men: First Class*, we meet Charles Xavier (James McAvoy) and Erik Lensherr (Michael Fassbender), two men with mutant abilities whose upbringing and lives have made the former happy to fit in while the latter feels like an outcast.

However, when Sebastian Shaw (Kevin Bacon) forges a plan to use the Cuban missile crisis to start a war to bring mutants to the fore, CIA agent Moira MacTaggart (Rose Byrne) recruits Xavier and Lensherr to find other mutants and stop Shaw's dastardly plan...

While the first *X Men* arguably started the latest wave of comic book adaptations, and its sequel was that rare beast in being superior to its forebear, the wheels came off with the third instalment.

Going back in time for a prequel was the order of the day, and it's a move that pays wonderful dividends, as *First Class* more than lives up to its name.

Matthew Vaughn's second bite at the *X* cherry brings a pleasing pace and deftness of touch that harkens back to the Singer films.

Having flashed his action credentials previously, here he lets loose with some superb set-pieces, whether it's the tense missile-led stand-off or an infiltration sequence that highlights the teleporting powers of the evil Azrael.

Yet, like many who have directed this genre, he appreciates that you need to ground the spectacle in an engaging

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

narrative and with characters you care about, something his script with Jane Goldman certainly achieves.

While the pacing sometimes feels a little too frenetic, the pair sketch the central relationship between Xavier and Lensherr with intricacy. Their opposing ideologies has always been the crux of the *X Men* stories, and here we learn about their friendship and what drives them apart.

It helps that they are embodied by two fantastic actors, with both James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender delivering excellent performances. McAvoy shows a cheeky charm and charisma that is a million miles away from Patrick Stewart's rendition of the character, yet gives the character the steely resolve and sense of responsibility that is all too familiar.

Meanwhile, Fassbender shows a grit and quiet malice as the

soon-to-be Magneto, again like McAvoy delivering a nuanced turn that only slightly evokes Ian McKellen, but offering something fresh and wholly engaging.

The rest of the cast all serve their purpose, with performances ranging from good to strong, the likes of Kevin Bacon, January Jones, Rose Byrne and Jennifer Lawrence all bringing the characters to life regardless of screen-time.

Even at over two hours, there is still much that could have been included, the film feeling a little too rushed for its own good – with some subplots and characters short-changed by the necessity of the story hanging on the relationship of Xavier and Lensherr.

However, this is still a superb way back into the world of *X*, and should Vaughn and co return for a second helping there is still plenty to mine from the fallout of *First Class*.

VERDICT – A stylish and swish action film that balances brains with brawn, *X Men: First Class* returns a sheen to the franchise. Directed with levity and no lack of skill by Matthew Vaughn, and anchored by superb turns by James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender, this film most certainly is *First Class*! **Highly recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *X Men*, *The Dark Knight*.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Gaining an insight into life on the front line...

WHAT next, Sir?" is the question that some 20-year-old Army officers will hear from soldiers whilst under attack from a foreign enemy.

That is the sort of decision making and leadership that young officers in the British Army have to demonstrate on an all too regular basis.

During the parliamentary recess last week, I visited the Army Officer Training College at Sandhurst to support some of our Afghanistan war veterans and to witness the training that officer cadets undertake before commanding a group of soldiers.

Their training is rigorous and crosses all types of warfare that our servicemen and women could have to encounter: be it from traditional combat to jungle warfare, to defending political attacks in the desert and beyond.

The most interesting aspect of the training I witnessed crossed three days.

It was a scenario leading up to an election day in a foreign land, where there were tensions between various community groups.

Half of the company were posing as the public and the others as soldiers using all their resources to secure and manage a peaceful ballot.

Those posing as the general public were briefed to act as religious leaders, heads of tribes and other roles to replicate an extreme scenario.

Some protested that the army was biased, others complained about vote rigging and others were out to cause as much trouble as possible.

The purpose of this setting was to test the leadership and decision making of officer cadets.

In one tense scenario, a girl claimed to have been attacked, which led to a riot.

The consequence was that a soldier was dragged from a 'safe-house' in an outburst of violence.

The officer under assessment had to determine how to act.



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

Should he direct a shooting and risk the life of their colleague and of some civilians? Would that escalate the tension or would it give the best chance of protecting his colleague who was being attacked in the open?

What alternative actions could he take? What was the risk of not acting? How should he best calm the situation?

This was a mock-up of a situation that our brave servicemen could be charged with handling in just five months' time, when some of them will be commanding in Afghanistan.

These young people are amongst the most impressive individuals I have ever met.

All between the ages of 18 and 28; many will be commanding a group of soldiers, much older than themselves with far greater experience.

However, their discipline, intellect, leadership, management and communication skills were second to none, and puts them apart from most other people.

I greatly admire the young officers I met whilst at Sandhurst, and meeting the war veterans and hearing their stories was a real privilege.

'I want to do more for constituency'

TWELVE months on from his election victory, the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, says "the time has flown by".

In addition to regular advice surgeries, he holds open community meetings to "hear reactions and concerns of residents and to respond to any questions they may have".

He explained: "Although I have an active record of contributing in Parliament and championing issues relating to the Vale, I want to do more."

"I wanted to make sure that constituents had the opportunity to meet with me within their own community in an informal setting, for me to hear what issues and actions are important for them – on both a very local level and on a national basis."

The MP is holding 20 anniversary community meetings between now and July at village halls, community centres and public houses across the Vale.

"I'm really looking forward to hearing about what matters most to residents and businesses alike, and hope I can answer any

questions or provide support for any issues that are raised with me," Mr Cairns said.

Anyone in the area is welcome to attend the informal community meetings.

June 11, The Sportsmans Rest Peterstone-Super-Ely, 10am-11.30am; St Nicholas Village Hall, St Nicholas, 12pm-1pm.

June 17, Lee Hall, Dinas Powys, 5.30pm-7pm; Llanfair Primary School, St Mary Church, 7.30pm-8.30pm.

July 1, The Gathering Place, St Athan, 5pm-6.30pm.

July 2, Llantion Hall, Llantwit Major, 11am-12.30pm.

July 8, Rhooose Community Centre, Stewart Road, 6pm-7.30pm; Barley Mow, Graig Penllyn, 8pm-9pm.

July 19, Pendoylan Village Hall, Pendoylan, 6pm-7pm; The Star, Treos, 8pm-9pm.

July 20, The Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes, 6.30pm-7.30pm; Sycamore Tree, Colwinston, 8pm-9pm.

July 21, Memorial Hall (Oriol Room), Barry, 6.30pm-8pm.

Burglary: Man is charged

POLICE investigating a flat burglary in Cowbridge on May 30 said that a 38-year-old man from Porthcawl has been arrested and charged with burglary.

He has been remanded in custody.

CCTV arrests

CCTV working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with six arrests in Barry during the week ending June 5.

It contacted the police on 40 occasions. One arrest was made on Skomer Road, Barry on May 30 involving criminal damage, a second was made the following day on Holton Road for alleged shoplifting.

Two arrests concerning burglary were made on June 1 in Main Street, and two more arrests were made on June 4 in Vere Street.

One involved possession of an offensive weapon and the other dangerous driving.

Local volunteers are praised by AM

VALE AM Jane Hutt has welcomed Sport Wales' commitment, as part of National Volunteering week, to encourage more people to volunteer.

She said: "I commend Sports Wales for their bid to recruit nearly 250,000 sports volunteers in Wales by the 2016 and I am currently pressing for progress with the Colcot Sports Centre refurbishment project which will support volunteers who coach football and who back young people's involvement with sport."

"I would also like to congratulate Barry YMCA for winning a top award for managing volunteers at the UK Sports Council Awards," she added.

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PACT MEETINGS

ILLTYD PACT at 7pm on June 21 at Mount Sorrel Hotel.

CASTLELAND PACT, 7pm on June 27, communal lounge, Philippa Freeth Court, Dock View Road, Barry.

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, June 9 at 7pm.

PENDOYLAN Community Council, Pendoylan School, June 9 at 7.45pm.

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, Eweny Village Hall on June 15 at 7pm.

WENVOE Community Council, Wenvoe Community Hall on June 16 at 7.30pm.

SULLY PACT, Williams Room, Old School, South Road on June 13 at 7pm.

MP'S SURGERIES

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, June 10 as follows:

1.30pm-3pm at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys; and 4pm-5.30pm at Morrisons, Penny Way, Barry.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

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RENAULT

Inspiring women target £12,000 for cancer charity

TEN inspiring women from across south Wales who have all had breast cancer, are hosting a strawberry tea event with BBC presenter Jason Mohammed – to raise money for Breast Cancer Care Cymru, at Dyffryn Gardens today (June 9) from 4pm–8pm.

Elaine Nicholas, of Barry, one of the organisers, said: "Having all been through a breast cancer diagnosis, we are all too aware of the importance of breast awareness."

"My diagnosis was picked up on my first,

post-aged 50 routine breast screening, which reinforces to me how lucky we are to have such a service.

"All women really must go when the invitation drops through the door, no matter how inconvenient!"

The ladies hope to raise more than £12,000 for Breast Cancer Care Cymru and have secured sponsors including Geldards, Pepsico, Confex and Western Power Distribution.

Elaine added: "Breast Cancer Care aims to be there for everyone affected by breast cancer and all of its services are offered completely free

of charge, with no government funding. So the funds that are raised by events such as this are vitally important.

"It promises to be a fantastic event with Jason Mohammed hosting.

"We also have a treat for fashion lovers as there will be a mini fashion show, where five ladies and one man will demonstrate that it is possible to look and feel beautiful, despite having been through a diagnosis.

"They will be modelling hats donated by Vivienne Sheriff and clothes from Body Basix. I was fortunate

enough to be a model at the very first Breast Cancer Care Cymru fashion show in 2010 and six of us original models will be donning our top hats once more."

Lisa Gilmour, area fundraising manager at Breast Cancer Care added:

"What the ladies are doing is wonderful. I'm amazed by how much effort and hard work they have put into organising an event like this.

"In Cardiff and the surrounding area alone, more than 9,000 people are living with a diagnosis of breast cancer.

"The money they raise will enable Breast Cancer Care to continue providing free support and information to anyone affected by the disease, when they need it most."

Anyone wishing to hold their own event can register now for a free strawberry tea fundraising pack full of ideas, games and invitations.

We would also love to hear from you if you can offer your services as a fundraising volunteer.

Visit www.breastcancer-care.org.uk/strawberry or call 02920 234073.

JAY SHEPPARD

Shot squirrels spark RSPCA investigation

THE RSPCA are appealing for information after a squirrel was found shot in Llanccarfan.

On May 25, it was found in a resident's garden so badly injured that it had to be put to sleep by a vet.

A similar incident occurred on June 1 in Llantwit Fardre, when another badly-injured animal had to be put to sleep.

RSPCA inspector Gemma Black said: "Shooting an animal is a criminal

offence and it's vital that we find the perpetrators as soon as possible.

"Anyone found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal could face a maximum six-month prison sentence and/or a fine of £20,000 under the Animal Welfare Act 2006."

Anyone with information regarding this incident should ring the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999. Calls are in confidence.

EISTEDDFOD RACE AT THE KING'S CUP IN ST ATHAN
RESIDENTS are being invited to support fundraising for the National Eisteddfod in the Vale 2012 at a race night in The Kings Cup, St Athan Village on Saturday, July 9.

To sponsor a race, contact Eleanor MacNamara of the St Athan branch of the fundraising committee on 01446 751950.

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RHOOSE ... a charming village in the Vale!

With the arrival of hot summer days, Rhooose is a Vale destination which provides a great day out!

MANY people dream of a sea-side or rural idyll and the village of Rhooose is fortunate

enough to combine the two.

It even has a notable Welsh geographical claim to fame!

At this time of the year, with the hot summer weather, it becomes a magnet for daytrippers and tourists, not only from the Vale and Cardiff, but from even further afield.

There are cliff-top walks with stunning views of the Bristol channel, traditional Welsh pubs for afternoon and evening meals, entertainment venues and friendly family-owned village businesses.

For a family anxious to take advantage of the good weather, Fontygary Leisure Park, with its state-of-the-art facilities, can provide a perfect

day's relaxation and enjoyment.

The manager, Jennie Flanigan, explained: "We are open to the public and you don't have to be a member."

"Families can come down for the day, with the parents enjoying a drink or ice-cream and the wonderful views, while the children play in one of the three play parks, or have a game of football or rounders on the field."

"The pool in the leisure complex is very popular and we have access to the beach which is life-guarded. Children enjoy exploring the rockpools."

"There are lovely walks all the way from the park to Rhooose Point and in

the other direction too."

"For something to eat or drink, there's the Lite Bite cafe, the fish and chip bar, and the Indian and Chinese restaurants open at 6pm."

The leisure and fitness facilities at the park include a cardiovascular room complete with rowers, bikes and cross trainers, a weights room, a jacuzzi, a sauna, and the pool, which is open seven days a week, has fun equipment like slides and wobbles for the children.

Entertainment is also laid on at Fontygary Leisure Park in the evenings.

Another local attraction is Ocean Lounge, which provides regular entertainment such as



ABOVE: Dave, Annette and John are proud to be part of the Vale's newest taxi company, JD Private Hire.

singers, karaoke and bingo, and it provides a large choice of meals for both adults and children in the 'Ocean Lounge Bar'.

On Sunday afternoons from 2pm it draws crowds to its weekend car boot sale too!

Pubs and restaurants also feature strongly in Rhooose and its surrounding area, and one example is The Highwayman Inn, which has a great track record in responding to its customers.

Apart from the traditional service of weekday meals and Sunday lunches, it provides entertainment such as karaoke, bands, singers and psychic entertainers, and even has an over-60s' menu at competitive prices. Meals are served every day of the week.

As you will note, Rhooose is deceptive in what it has to offer. For a small population it is astonishing to consider that it is home to an airport, hotels and a railway station.

Vale councillor Jeff James, who has served on the council for 32 years, and has witnessed the rise of Rhooose in the last three decades both as a resident and as a decision maker, also pointed out its additional claim to fame: "It is the most southerly village in Wales, and the beach is the most southerly point in Wales –

weather systems don't seem to be as severe in Rhooose.

"I think Rhooose has its own micro-climate!"

"We are lucky with our coast, the walks

and the countryside.

"We've also got local businesses and entrepreneurs who know their customers and offer a very good service," he observed.



Glenys, the owner of Coffee Time, for quality homemade cakes, lunches and speciality coffee.



Dean Chamberlain of Deano's Barber Shop has been cutting gentlemen's hair for more than 12 years.

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LEFT:
The newly-refurbished Fontygary Inn is a popular choice for both locals and visitors.

Club a magnet for young

RHOOSE Football Club has

had a very successful season, with more than 90 children now playing every Saturday, as well as the senior side, who are in the first division of the South Wales Amateur League.

Rhoose has recently organised two football

soccer schools with former Manchester United and England under-21 star Russell Beardsmore, which

proved very successful, with everyone getting professional coaching as well as joining in fun events and receiving a commemorative medal.

In May, Rhoose hosted its inaugural football festival with almost 400 boys and girls attending from across the Vale, Bridgend and Cardiff. It was a terrific occasion

for the players and their supporters.

The club gives special thanks to Sport Wales, who have supported Rhoose in its objective of increasing the number of children playing football, and providing trained coaches to help develop the players.

Rhoose is thriving at the younger age groups,

but both the under-11s and under-12s are in need of additional players for next season.

If you are currently in year-6 or 7 and would like to play football next season, we would be delighted to hear from you.

For further details, contact Mark Bartlett on 07504 214826.



Vanessa, the owner of newly-opened Sublime Hair Ltd, with Tyler, qualified hair stylist.



James Barnsley has now reopened the Six Bells Inn, Penmark, following a restructure of management.

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PENDOYLAN CHURCH IN WALES PRIMARY SCHOOL Refurbishment launch... Exciting Times!



'A SCHOOL FIT FOR 21ST CENTURY!'

Pendoylan Primary School celebrates as work gets under way on £3.6m project

PENDOYLAN Church in Wales Primary School has an overwhelming demand for places – but when you consider the dedicated leadership of the governors and staff, and the fact that the school is celebrating the laying of foundations for a £3.6 million redevelopment, it is more than understandable!

The investment in the school emphasises the commitment that the funding bodies – the Vale Council, the Llandaff Diocese of the Church in Wales and the Welsh Assembly – have for rural education.

By the time the project is complete, the Pendoylan community will have a facility fit for the 21st century and the next 100 years of education in the area.

The chair of the governors, Mrs Jan Rees, said that everyone was "thrilled" that construction work was now under way.

"At a time when there are cuts, we are fortunate that the project is going ahead – and it is thanks to the backing of the Vale

Council, the Llandaff Diocese of the Church in Wales and the Welsh Assembly.

"It means we will have the facilities to cater for the next couple of generations."

Mrs Rees pointed out that a redevelopment which includes a new library, computer room, and a car park which will accommodate coaches dropping off youngsters, will mean an improved learning environment for the pupils.

Mrs Lyn Murray, who has been the headteacher since 1994, explained that the improvements have been eagerly awaited: "The growing success and popularity of our school means that we have grown from having 80 on the roll call to 220.

"We have expanded using temporary buildings and facilities, but while staff have managed brilliantly, we are in need of a new building that will do justice to our standard of teaching.

"Now the time has finally arrived for work to start and it is all systems go!

"The children, parents, staff and governors are very excited and we will all be watching with interest as the new building



ABOVE
An artist's aerial impression of how the school will look when the work is complete.

The school dates back to 1873, but its new incarnation will include a new single storey building which will house an assembly hall, an additional four classrooms, a creative arts teaching area and dining room.

The design promises to deliver a brighter and lighter teaching environment.

The school, staff and governors, and the construction company responsible for the new project recently took part of a day out to celebrate the start of work.

The construction company undertaking the project is ISG Pearce Wales, and the regional director Jon James commented: "We are delighted to have been chosen by the school and

RIGHT:
Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School is celebrating the start of work on the new foundations, and among those marking the event were the chair of governors Jan Rees, fellow governor Philip Latham, headteacher Lyn Murray, and Jon James, regional director ISG Pearce, and pupil representatives of all the school years.

Llandaff Diocese of the Church in Wales to build an exciting and important building for the village, and the generations to come.

"Our team is looking forward to delivering a building that everyone can be proud of."

The scheme is a real team effort with ISG Pearce working with architects Petersen Williams, structural engineers the Austin Partnership, mechanical and engineering firm Hicks Titley Partnership and quantity surveyors EC Harris on the construction project.

The development includes a number of sustainable features

including a geothermal heating system and drainage system.

Wherever possible materials produced during demolition work at the school will be recycled and used in the construction work.

By next year, the site will have been transformed with a building that blends the older traditional part of the school with a stylish, contemporary addition (see illustration).

The chair of governors added: "We are delighted that the community's vision is at last becoming a reality."

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ORPHANAGE FUNDRAISER

THE Home of Love Orphanage in Mizoram, India, cares for up to 50 children, particularly babies who have lost their mothers, and infants whose mothers suffer chronic diseases such as TB and cancer.

Facilities desperately need updating and Bethania Presbyterian Church, Pendoylan, is holding a

fundraising tea on Saturday, July 18, at 2.30pm.

It also features Hearts of Worship, 'Ministry in Song' and a short talk by Rev Dr Sangkhuma on the orphanage.

Adults: £5, children admitted free.

Tickets from: Pam Wooding (01443) 222228; Lynn McCarthy (01446) 760520; Mary Jacobs (01443) 224192; Anne Grimes (01446) 775443.

Surgery

LABOUR councillors for Gibbonsdown Ward, Barry, Rob Curtis and Margaret Wilkinson, will be holding a street surgery in the Elizabeth Avenue, Meggitt Road and Dorothy Close area on Saturday, June 11, from 11am till 12 noon.

Inspirational Homes

Planning in the Vale

Mr Andrew Marytsch – 4 St Baruch Close, Dinas Powys – single storey rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer.
Mr and Mrs Richard Hine – 25 Stacey Road, Dinas Powys – single storey rear extension and rebuild garage with taller pitched roof.
Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale – 49 Holton Road, Barry – two storey extension to rear of property.
Mr B Booker – 12 St Lythans Road, Barry – proposed dormer to rear garden roof slope.
Formation of two bedrooms and ensuite within roof void.
Mr Stephen Cooper – 121 Plymouth Road, Penarth – two storey side/rear extension, single storey front/rear extension.
Mr Marcus David – 29, Main Road, Ogmere by Sea – extension and alteration of existing detached dormer bungalow.
Ms Ceri Trotman – Trem Y Fro, Maerdy Newydd Farm, Bonvilston – two new field gate accesses to highway, existing access closed up.
Mr J Roberts – 18 Eastgate, Cowbridge – removal of existing conservatory to be replaced with sunroom.
Mrs Melanie Lane – 46 St David's Crescent, Penarth – two storey extension.
Mrs Ann Parry – Wayside, Westgate, Cowbridge – demolition of the existing four bedroom dwelling and

detached garage and development of a five bedroom dwelling and detached garage.
Newydd Housing Association Limited – former St Luke's Church, Elfred Avenue, Penarth – 1, Amendments to parking courtyard layout to reduce surface water run off. 2, Amendments to window design to facilitate self cleaning and increase area of openable casement to ensure overheating is reduced. 3, Provide additional photovoltaic panel to south facing roof to ensure code for sustainable homes level

5 is obtained.
Mr and Mrs Lane – Castle Lodge, St Georges Super Ely – new house to replace existing.
Mr Chris Hillman – 13 Elfed Avenue, Penarth – two storey extension to rear, two parking bays to front of property to include new crossing of footway. Single storey summerhouse/store to rear garden.
Mr Mark Currie – 12 Atlantic Place, Barry – outbuilding for storage and recreational use.
Stanwell Road Baptist Church – Stanwell Road Baptist Church, Stanwell Road, Penarth

– removal of two yew trees.
Ms A Smith – 5 Belle Vue Terrace, Penarth – dismantle and cut main stem close to ground level on one Eucalyptus and one Cypress.
Mrs M Bailey – Brooklyn, Piccadilly, Llanblethian – 1, Fell Cypress. 2, Prune to tidy up old and dead branches on trees overhanging from Coopersale House.
Mrs Makris – 6 Village Farm, Bonvilston – undertake 5m overall crown reduction pruning back to suitable growing points on oak tree in rear garden.

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There is a large lounge with French doors to the landscaped rear garden, a separate dining room, a large office/study plus a stunning eat in kitchen with a full range of appliances. There is also a cloakroom/wc and utility room. To the first floor there are 5 generous bedrooms, 2 with ensuite facilities and the third with 'Jack & Jill' bath-

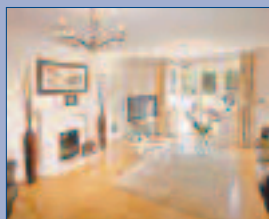
room access.

Externally there are superb gardens, the front being elevated and joining sea views. The rear has an expansive patio with neon solar lighting plus good areas of lawn and planted beds.

There is a double drive which leads to the aforementioned double garage which is tiled plus the property is gas centrally heated and is Upvc double glazed throughout.

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Inspirational Homes and Gardens

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN?

Cooperative Group –
Cooperative Store, 26 Windsor Road, Penarth – regularisation application to retain recently installed external illumination of existing fascia sign.

Mrs Sharon Green – **9 Westfield Drive, Penarth** – two storey side extension.

Mr Andrew Weston – **16 Augusta Road, Penarth** – side extension to main house to form gymnasium/garage, replacement windows to rear elevation, internal alterations to main house, demolish existing garage and replace with granny annexe.

Mr Leigh Griffiths – **53 Clive Place, Penarth** – demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a new detached four bedroom house.

Mr Mark Canning – **West Ceffyl, Broughton Road, Wick** – removal of agricultural occupancy condition.

Mr Grant Maunder – **36 Victoria Road, Penarth** – alteration and extension to rear of existing

dwelling for replacement of existing garage.
Mr and Mrs Crockett – **52 Marine Drive, Barry** – single storey conservatory.

Mrs Thomas – **13 Plassey Street, Penarth** – ground floor extension on removal of existing, remove garage, reinstate garden wall and new porch to front elevation.

Mr John Dent – **Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry** – construction of new car park and access ramp on land to the rear of the Docks Offices and works to upgrade the existing council car park and lighting in order to provide a mixed use council car park and park and ride scheme.
Mr M Barnwell – **40 Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth** – retention of two storey side and rear extension and garden terrace.

Mr David Edwards – **Hafod Lodge, Hensol** – rebuild stone walls to new alignment with use of original railings.
Mr Martin England – **The Hawthorns,**

Argoed, Llansannor – deletion of condition 1 of approvals 1974/0960 and 1976/01479 to remove agricultural occupancy condition.

Mr Lyndon Richards – **68 Porth Y Castell, Barry** – demolish garage and build single storey side extension.

Argiva Ltd – **St Hilary Transmitting Station, St Hilary, Cowbridge** – installation of six photovoltaic array panels approximately 48m in length, associated cables and boundary treatment.

David John – **former Oxfam Shop, Bear Lane, Cowbridge** – provision of a double storey extension comprising kitchen at ground floor and toilets at first floor.

Filco Foods – **19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – change of use of rear garage storage units which are part of an existing retail unit into vehicle storage for a private hire company.

Provision of small dedicated office for use with private hire company.
St Aubin Nurseries – **76 Romilly Park Road, Barry** – retention of a wooden cabin for a use falling within the definition of Use Class D1 (non-residential institution) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended).

Mr PW and Ms RL Davies – **Slade Farm, Southerndown** – change of use of existing barn to holiday accommodation (incorporating two short term holiday let units).

Mrs Angharad Shoring Elidir – **Westbrook, Factory Road, Llanblethian** – a double storey side extension and a single storey rear extension to the existing dwelling, using all material to match existing.

Mr Derek Wolfe – **Barry Town Council, Gladstone Road, Barry** – signboard and flag-pole.

Dow Corning Limited – **Cardiff Road, Barry** – construct open steel frame supporting process vessels and equipment as an extension to existing W406.

Mr Richard Jenkins – **27 Tair Onen, Cowbridge** – two storey side and single storey rear extension.

Mr Peter Hale – **56 Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys** – rear dormer.

Mr Kenneth Rattenbury – **Blodfa, Station Road East, Wenvoe** – conversion of existing integral garage and area above into additional accommodation, minor elevational alterations to rear of existing house plus erection of replacement detached garage with workshop/hobby area over.

Everything Everywhere Limited – **The Vale Resort, Hensol Park, Hensol** – 15m telegraph pole with ground base equipment.

Mr Ken Broad – **Garage lock up, Pyle Street, Barry** – construction of two linked dwellings.

Mr Robert Morgan – **68 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – internal alterations to existing café, new shop

frontage and installation of wood burning stove.
Mrs SC Le Masurier – **Orchardleigh, Pen y turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – outline application for two dwellings.

Mr Adrian Hancock – **land off Penarth Portway, Penarth Marina, Penarth** – large built up letter fascia sign for Pier 64 restaurant on north waterside elevation. Small fascia sign adjacent to entrance on south elevation.

Miss Bess Jones – **Greystones, Flemingston** – proposed replacement conservatory.

Mr Paul Smith – **15 Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major** – to widen the drive entrance by 1,840mm.

Mr and Mrs Hadley – **163 Pontypridd Road, Barry** – uPVC conservatory.

Mrs Ada Flinn – **3 Coed Bach, Barry** – porch.

Mr Alun Hughes – **4 birch Grove, Barry** – proposed detached garage.

den room.
Mr Andrew Gardner – **1 Heol Neuadd, Cogan, Penarth** – conversion of domestic garage to hobbies/workshop and storage area.

Mr Anthony Elias – **26 Carn yr Eboi, Barry** – single storey garden building to provide garden room and shed.

Vale of Glamorgan

Council – **Sully Primary School, Burnham Avenue, Sully** – retention of single storey demountable classroom (2006/01635/REG3).

Mr Aural Hosiah – **Village Shop, Wick** – convert existing vacant village shop to five bedroom detached dwelling.

Stuart Allen – **77 Wordsworth Avenue,**

Penarth – single storey side extension to provide bike storage.

Mr J Roberts – **18 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – removal of existing conservatory to be replaced with sunroom.

Mr Robert Morgans – **1 Hill Head, Llantwit Major** – retaining wall, pathway and external stairway.

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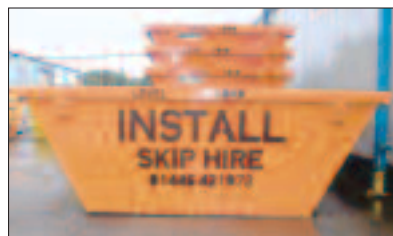
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Llantwit Major

SUMMER Meet the people update...

Promoting their VICTORIAN FAIR, Saturday 18th June



Good things are happening in Llantwit Major as town carves a niche for itself

THE town of Llantwit Major is one of many communities these days that has to

balance the different forces that tend to pull it in opposite directions.

For instance, for many people the

focus of the town is the historic centre, with its narrow streets which meander here and there, and its buildings that have centuries of character ingrained in them.

In fact, this picture perfect view of the town will be shown off to its best advantage on Saturday, June 18, when the Victorian Fayre is staged and the town is packed with stalls and various types of street entertainment.

The fayre takes place every other year and is an established attraction in the Vale calendar.

For others, Llantwit's big attraction is its position as a base for living and working in south

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Wales. It is close enough to the main population centres to be convenient, but far enough away to feel relaxed.

Barry, Cardiff and Bridgend are all within easy reach, but even closer is the Heritage Coast, with its cliff walks, bays and beautiful beaches.

Add to that the numerous small villages, with their own ancient churches, and you have a treasure trove of rural character on your doorstep.

The Rev Huw Butler, the Rector of the Llantwit Major Benefice, told The GEM that of the nine churches in his area,

all were at least 700 years old!

However, the important thing for any town is to preserve these assets while maintaining a healthy and vibrant economy – and investment is the key to this.

Fortunately for Llantwit, there are plenty of signs that people are investing in the town.

The work being done as part of the Boverton Road regeneration scheme is near to completion, and shoppers should certainly notice a difference then!

The prestigious development at St Illtyds Court, near the town centre, where the essential character of an old building is being preserved, while providing high quality apartments.

Elsewhere, near the railway station, more town houses are being built, making an attractive terrace that should bring a further economic boost to the town, also giving local people a chance to buy in the town where they grew-up.

One man planning to do his bit as an ambassador for the town is Coun John Clifford, who has just become the first Llantwitian to serve as Mayor of the Vale.

He told The GEM: "I also sit on the town council and I do believe that everyone works hard on projects that will improve the town."

"My civic service as Vale Mayor is on June 19 in St Illtud's Church, with a reception afterwards at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, and I will be proud to show off the town to visiting dignitaries."

This means, of course, that Llantwit has two mayors, and the Town Mayor, Coun Eddie Williams, has just started his year in office.

He settled in Llantwit for precisely the reasons outlined earlier, for its geographical position close to the Heritage Coast. Now, he is a keen admirer of the



Suzanne and the trusted staff at Boverton Post Office/Bargain Booze.

town. He said: "For a relatively small town, it has a lot of facilities, and I think that big things are happening at the precinct, and that we will all benefit from that."

"It has a very low crime rate as well!" (CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

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Megan John, the 'librarian' at the New Hope shop.



Maureen Whiskerd of The Chocolate Box.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A, ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 LLANTWIT MAJOR VICTORIAN FAYRE 18th June 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in columns 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 18th June 2011	Wine Street, throughout its length, Church Street, throughout its length, Commercial Street, throughout its length, Wesley Street, throughout its length.	From 8.00am to 6.00pm
	The un-named lane that runs through the Town Hall car park from its junction with Church Street (next to the Town Hall) in a southwesterly direction through the car park to the southeastern boundary of a property known as the Old Bakehouse.	
	Colhugh Street from its junctions with Church Street for a distance of 10m in a southerly direction.	
	Boverton Road, between East Street and Stallcourt Avenue.	
	Durell Street, will be closed at its junction with East Street.	
	Burial Lane will be closed at its junction with Church Street, The Strand, throughout its length, East Street, throughout its length.	

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place
Dated this 9th day of June 2011

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA.



Llantwit Major

SUMMER Meet the people update...

Promoting their VICTORIAN FAIR, Saturday 18th June



The Old White Hart

An active local economy is key to town's success!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

On the tourism front, last year, Coun Williams was involved in piloting the new 'e-trail' system that will send the best local walking routes in the Vale direct to someone's mobile phone.

He said: "At the recent Vale Walking Festival, the system was up and running and it was very well received."

"I think that young people with their smart phones are much more tuned in to this, and it should definitely increase the number of visitors to the area!"

If you don't want to travel by car, in recent years, train services have been re-instated along the Vale of Glamorgan railway



Stephen Meakin - Vale Shoe Repairs

line, from Cardiff to Bridgend via Llantwit Major.

This has made it even easier to visit, stroll around the old town, browse in the local shops or visit a pub or restaurant and, get some exercise as well, by walking down to the beach.

Historically speaking, Llantwit Major is already at the heart of the Vale, and local residents feel that way about the town, so why not take time to enjoy it?



Sarah Watkins of Sariel Healing.



Nicky Foster, 'a picture of health' from Health Conscious.

LLLANTWIT MAJOR'S Association with St Illtud has long provided a rich historical legacy for the town – one which many feel could be a springboard for a boost to the town's 'heritage tourism' potential.

These prospects could be given an extra push next year when the ambitious plans to rebuild the Galilee Chapel – at present a ruined add-on to the western end of St Illtud's Church – are implemented.

The GEM recently met two of the team who are working to make this project a reality, the new Rector of the Llantwit Major benefice, Rev Huw Butler, and the secretary of the project, Mr Clifford Edge.

The project will involve building a 'frame' around the existing historic stone walls of the chapel, adding a slate roof, and then using glass to 'fill in' the spaces where the stone walls are missing. The use of glass will have the added bonus of bathing the new building in natural light, a desirable side effect because of what will be on display there.

But more of that later...

The project was already at quite an advanced stage when Rev Butler took up his post last year, but when he arrived, the total cost of £550,000 made it a distant project, although around £200,000 had been raised or promised. What transformed



Clifford Edge and Rector Huw Butler alongside the Celtic stones that will be moved to the Galilee Chapel.

things was a grant from the Heritage Lottery fund of £300,000, and suddenly all involved started to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

In fact, Clifford Edge believes that it might be possible to make an early start before the final total is raised, and add on the extras such as catering facilities later.

Certainly, he feels that work should start next year.

There should be great

interest in the Galilee Chapel once the building is complete. The intention is to make it a centre for the study of Celtic Christianity, and the centre piece of the chapel will be the existing collection of Celtic stones and crosses, which date back to the eighth and ninth centuries.

These crosses are much older than the church which houses them. St Illtud's Church is made up of two

halves – the West Church which was built in the 11th Century, and the comparatively 'new' east Church (15th Century).

The exciting thing about the Celtic crosses and stones on show in the church is that, in the words of Huw Butler, "There is just as much buried as there is on show."

It will cost £22,000 to excavate the stones, and then install them in the Galilee Chapel, but they should be a mightily impressive sight when the work is done!

Both Rev Butler and Clifford Edge think that this new centrepiece will be a big attraction to visitors, and that it will focus attention on the rich history of the town, because Llantwit Major plays an important part in the story of Christianity itself.

It was the Romans who brought the reli-

gion to Britain, but when they left, it all but disappeared.

It was revived by Illtud, a Welsh monk, who founded a monastic order in Llantwit Major in the year 500 – a century before Augustine landed in Kent.

Illtud's missionaries went, in particular, to Ireland and Brittany, and Clifford Edge believes that the town can benefit from emphasising the role that Llantwit has played in Celtic history.

In fact, there are already strong ties in a number of areas between the Celts in Wales, the Gaelic Irish, the Bretons in France and the Cornish nation as well.

The Celtic music festival held each year in Porthcawl already draws visitors from all these countries.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

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Avid reader, Megan John, joined the team on a 'Future Job Fund' scheme for a 6 months placement, during which time she proved invaluable. Megan has introduced and categorised their new library which is proving to be a great hit.

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Llantwit Major

SUMMER Meet the people update...

Promoting their VICTORIAN FAIR, Saturday 18th June



CHAPEL PROJECT'S BOOST



ABOVE: The Rev Huw Butler and Clifford Edge are pictured in the (roof-less) Galilee Chapel.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

Every town needs a healthy mix of business activities, and for Llantwit Major, tourism is an obvious sector that needs to be developed as much as possible.

'Llantwit Major – home of the Celts' – that has a nice ring to it!

For more information on the project, visit www.illtudsgalileechapel.org.uk



Golan Kibria (centre/back) with his team of professionals from Jaipur Restaurant.

WI learn about tales of the tourist guide!

NEWS FROM LLANTWIT WI

FOLLOWING the business meeting, where future events were discussed, members of Llantwit Major Women's Institute welcomed Sheilah Lowe, who described her time as a guide for the Welsh Tourist Board.

She regaled them with tales from her experiences as a guide at the Boathouse, in Laugharne, where Dylan Thomas wrote, and she also read some

of his poetry.

The competition for a favourite poem was won by Barbara Pathania and the bloom of the month by Heather Hacker.

The next meeting is on July, when Howard Mortimer will be talking about Joyce Grenfell. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



Tina Morgan of Rio ladies fashions and accessories.



Steve Dodd, PC of Mind.

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Llanmaes WI hears all about Red Cross work

LLANMAES WI began the May meeting with a talk by Jeff Collins, the British Red Cross Director for Wales.

The Red Cross works with young people and many who volunteer for work experience then go on to get permanent jobs. In 2010, 600 volunteered with either no skills or degrees.

In four schools in Wales they have set up emergency response teams and also provide support for older people recovering after operations; for example, arranging visits by district nurses and doctors for up to six weeks.

Jan Jones (president) thanked the speaker for an entertaining and informative talk.

LLANMAES WI

in June.

This year, the proposals for mega farms and for the closure of libraries produced lively debate.

It was unanimously agreed that members urge the government to support libraries and refuse planning permission for mega farms.

There will be an antiques road show in June, with guest speaker Stephen Peters.

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

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Llantwit Major

SUMMER Meet the people update...
Promoting their VICTORIAN FAIR, Saturday 18th June



LLANTWIT SET TO CELEBRATE 30-YEAR TWINNING LINK WITH FRENCH TOWN



ABOVE: The beautiful harbour of Le Poulguen.

Fashion king!

These hardy souls made the trip to Le Poulguen recently.



Stuart of Sloan & Co, whose shop stocks the latest in fashion.

NEXT year will mark the 30th anniversary of twinned-towns Le Poulguen and Llantwit Major.

Over three decades, many people have invested a great deal of time and hard work to maintain the cultural and social link between the two towns, and it has been very successful.

Le Poulguen is a beautiful town – a popular tourist attraction with sandy beaches and a harbour mooring more than 700 boats, while Llantwit is steeped in history, a pretty town situ-

ated in the scenic Vale of Glamorgan.

Over the years, numerous exchanges have been arranged, involving tennis players, marathon runners, Police, rugby and football groups.

Students have also gained work experience through the help of Twinning and many lasting friendships have been formed.

At present, the association is planning a week's entertainment for its French friends who arrive in September, including a visit to Bath, Rhondda Heritage Centre and to

Llancaiach Fawr Manor. In 2012, there will be official celebrations in both towns to celebrate 30 years of friendship.

Llantwit Twinning will be taking part in the Victorian Fayre, and will be near the Cenotaph in the centre of old Llantwit on Saturday, June 18.

Come along to find out more about what we do! Everyone is welcome, and we are always looking for new members. You do not have to speak French to join us. We have monthly events and a great deal of fun! EB



Celebrating 25 years of the relationship between the towns in 2007.

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Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
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Vale of Glamorgan Council H4U Housing Association Newydd Housing Association
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• Double-glazing
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Dylan Crescent	81	Gold	25/03/11
Parkland Walk	41	Gold+	06/07/10
Stefford Green	50	Gold	29/03/11
Clive Place	85	Gold	30/09/10
Charterfield Street	93	Gold	10/03/11
Cresswell Court	49	Gold	18/04/11
Cwm Paro	50	Gold+	23/11/10
Melton Close	78	Gold	23/09/10
Coe Stumble	17	Silver+	10/02/11
Main Street	28	Silver	23/03/11
Narberth Court	34	Gold	30/03/11
Trefame Road	59	Gold	01/04/11
Belle Vue Close	27	Gold+	11/04/11
Rhodes Road	57	Gold	04/04/11

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BAILEY Joan

It is with great sadness that Nicky and Paul announce the death of their adored mother Joan.
Loving grandmother to Michael, Charlotte and Samantha, will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, June 14, 2.45pm.
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Birthdays

FRANCIS WOOSNAM HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY

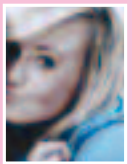
12th June, 2011
Lots of love from Eira and all the family xxx



Katie Thompson

Happy 18th Birthday, Darling

Lots of love
Mum, Dad, Emily,
George and Ollie. XXX



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Golf hopefuls take their first step on the road to China

AMATEUR golfer Mark Garvey, from Port Talbot, has qualified for the UK regional final in the Audi quattro Cup golf tournament.



Sinclair Audi's managing director, Jonathan Sinclair (left) with tournament winner Mark Garvey.

Mark won the qualifier at the Neath Golf Club last week with a score of 39 points in a Stableford competition.

A field of 96 amateur golfers contested the 18-hole, Sinclair Audi Group sponsored competition at Neath Golf Club.

The top-eight finishers now pair up in an Audi regional final at the Belfry on July 14.

The full list of golfers qualifying for the regional final is: 1st - Mark Garvey (25), from Port Talbot; 2nd - Linda Evans (61), from Swansea; 3rd - Richard Williams (47), from Neath; 4th - Mark Furneaux (52), from Porthcawl; 5th - Austin Roberts (50), from Swansea; 6th - John Cooper (24), from Pontypridd; 7th - James Lott (25), from Porthcawl; 8th - Paul

Hughes (44), from Great Britain will compete in the World Final at the Mission Hills resort in China in November.

The Audi quattro Cup, being staged for the 21st year, is the world's largest amateur golf competition with almost 80,000 players from more than 50 countries expected to compete for a place in the week-long world final.

Ultimately two 'pairs' representing

Imps' football festival makes for great day

APPROXIMATELY 550 children in more than 50 teams in age groups ranging from under-8s to under-12s, took part in Cadoxton Imps AFC's annual mini and junior 5-a-side football festival which was held recently.

The Imps' annual football festival has become an established fixture in the Barry footballing calendar and this was the 14th consecutive year that the event had again been kindly sponsored by McDonald's Restaurant (Barry).

This ensured that every child taking part received a certificate and a medal.

McDonald's also provided a winner's trophy for the junior teams sections and a fair play award for the mini teams sections.

Martin Pursall, chairman of Cadoxton Imps

AFC, said "There is a tremendous amount of hard work by a lot of people involved with the club to organise and run an event like this but it is worth it to see so many children, parents and grandparents enjoying a day of football and fun."

"I would like to thank all the Imps managers and committee and everyone else who has contributed to making the day a success including: Lyndon Smith of LDS Motor Factors for the loan of a van to cart around the goals and other equipment; Barry Comprehensive School for allowing us to use the school grounds and canteen; St John's Ambulance (Cowbridge); and in particular Huw Thomas and McDonald's Restaurant (Barry) for his continued support for this annual event for the 14th consecutive year," he added.

SUMMER BALL

Following the success of a similar event two years ago, Cadoxton Imps AFC are again holding a black tie Summer Ball on Saturday, June 25, at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry, with doors opening from 7pm.

The event kicks off with a three-course dinner (with wine) at 8pm followed by entertainment from singer Sherrie Lee Lewis who will get everyone in the dancing mood.

There will also be a disco, a prize raffle and an auction of selected items, including signed football shirts from Arsenal, Liverpool and Everton, a signed Cardiff City football and framed prints of Manchester United signed photos.

Any donations for raffle prizes are always greatly appreciated and anyone wishing to donate any prizes should call either Martin or Gary on the numbers below or bring them along on the night.

To avoid disappointment, book tickets in advance by calling either chairman Martin Pursall on 07733318093 or secretary Gary Spierling on 01446 407591 or by contacting any of the Imps' managers or committee members.

All profits raised from the event will go to the Imps.

Club is looking for new recruits

THE under-11s at Llantwit Major Football Club are missing a key player for next season - a goalkeeper!

A club spokesman said: "The under-11s are looking good for next year, apart from between the sticks, so I would ask any budding goalkeeper to contact the number below."

The club is also on the lookout for new players at under-15 level, where the squad would welcome players in any position.

Anyone interested should contact Gwyn John on 01446 793669.

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
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Four call-outs on busy weekend for the Barry Lifeboat's volunteers

VOLUNTEERS who respond to calls at Barry's lifeboat station were called out on Friday, Saturday and Sunday last weekend.

The first came when the crew responded to a call for help from a 37ft motor cruiser on Friday morning, a *spokesperson reports*.

The cruiser had broken down a few miles off Nash Point. The two crew members on board were very unlucky to have suffered engine failure so soon after a complete overhaul of the boat.

Luckily for them they had the right equipment on board and were fully prepared for any eventualities.

Richy Tutton, full time mechanic at Barry Dock Lifeboat Station said: "This incident just goes to show how important it is to have the right equipment on board and to be ready to deal with the unexpected."

"RNLI sea safety checks are available free of charge to all boat owners - just go to www.RNLI.org.uk to organise one."

It also underlined the importance of local employers' support for volunteer crew members on their staff.

The RNLI is grateful to all those employers who release crew from their day jobs at a moment's notice.

On Saturday afternoon, the crew had responded to a call from a concerned member of the public who had contacted the Coastguard to report that a paraglider had landed in water off Nash Point.

The lifeboat started searching but was relieved to find that what had actually landed was a big bunch of helium balloons, which the crew disposed of safely.

The crew returned to station in time to enjoy the annual RNLI barbecue, which was held at Barry Yacht Club.

However, seven crew members were unable to sample any of the liquid refreshments on offer, in case there was another emergency call that evening.

As it happens, the pagers went off at 5.06am and the crew responded to reports of a person in the water. The boat was eventually stood down as the woman had been found by the RAF Sea King rescue helicopter and taken to hospital. Her condition is unknown at this time."

Later that morning, the lifeboat headed out of the harbour once

again to find a boat that was transmitting on emergency radio channels.

As the transmission was continuous, contact could not be made via radio and other vessels in trouble could not use the emergency channel.

The boat was found safe and well after a two-hour search near Newport. The crew were unaware that they had transmitting on such an important channel.

ENGINE TROUBLE

The Barry Dock Lifeboat crew have experienced engine trouble of their own this week. The station's Trent class lifeboat has sprung an oil leak and has had to come out of the water for repair.

An all-weather lifeboat from the RNLI's relief fleet is on station until the usual boat is repaired.

The RNLI is grateful to the Barry fundraising branch and for the ongoing support of the local people who are so generous in their funding of this essential service.

Lifeboats across the UK save an average of 22 lives a day and are on call 24 hours of every day of the year.

Barry Athletic first team suffer setback

NATHAN BAKER'S Barry Athletic 1st XI were left frustrated at the Barry Oval last Saturday, after a four-wicket defeat at the hands of the division's surprise package, Lisvane.

With the drizzly weather not scheduled until later on, Baker had no hesitation in batting first. However, Baker's decision proved to be the wrong one as wickets fell at regular intervals.

The weather forecast proved to be a few hours behind as conditions began to favour the bowlers and they soon began to take control and put the Stags on the back foot.

Despite the efforts of Billy Usswald (24), Anjan Ganapathy (22) and Scott Malpas (20), the Stags never really got going and were disappointingly bowled out for a less than impressive 155 in 45.3 overs.

After the interval, things went from bad to worse as Lisvane made a bright start in their reply. Hellyar was unusually expensive and Gee proved to be ineffective with the new ball, despite

taking the solitary wicket of Dave Ricketts (0).

Although wickets were falling gradually, defending 155 would be difficult in any match and alongside key chances that went begging, that task would get even more difficult.

Despite Steve Jones' spell of 3-39 and Jake Griffith's economical 1-12, 155 would never be enough and with 13 overs to spare, the visitors laboured over the finishing line with four wickets in hand.

TERRIFIC TWOMEY TAKES FIVE! SIMON PHILLIPS kept his 100 per cent winning record as Second XI captain, with a comprehensive nine-wicket win over newly-promoted Lisvane CC.

With the sun shining at Llwynnarth, the home side won the toss and chose to bat first.

However, the batting display didn't live up to the standards of the batting surface and with the high standard of bowling, namely Callum Twomey, who showed the Stags what potential he has by claiming his first five-

wicket haul with figures of 5-35 from 9.4 overs.

Only Gary Israel (45 no) showed some resistance as Lisvane were bowled out for a disappointing 186.

The Stags were in complete dominance, after the tea session, with the deadly partnership of Stephen Jones and Andrew Buckland. Their positive play proved to be too much for the home side and by the time Jones departed for a more than satisfactory 69, the job was pretty much done.

Martin Baker (16 no) was on hand to guide the Stags to another victory with plenty of overs to spare. Buckland finished on an impressive 81 no.

3RD XI DELIVER PAYBACK

ANDY ELLIS'S Barry Athletic 3rd XI thrashed Panteg B in a fantastic day for Stag cricket.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, the Barry captain was optimistic of maintaining his 100 per cent record this season and with last-minute withdrawals and injuries within the Stag squad, Ellis called Nathan Baker and Gavin White up to the team.

The Stags began shakily with Griffith falling for just three, after being trapped lbw by Callum Reid but that only brought in Gavin White to partner Nathan Baker.

At that point, fireworks began to explode, as both batsmen took full control of the innings and showed the visitors a batting master-class.

Both batsmen were in the form of their lives as boundaries were hit at a rapid rate.

White was first to depart, in the 35th over, after being unluckily run out by Collins. Baker

kept going until the 39th over, when he chose to retire, not out, on a career best 250.

Ashley Baker and Joe Walsh finished the innings off with some quickfire running, in between the wicket, before ending the innings on 372-2, a magnificent display from the Stags.

The Stags immediately tore through the Panteg B batting line-up. A clear edge through to the 'keeper, that wasn't given, was followed by three wickets in quick succession as Griffith and Frost made light work of the batsmen.

A fightback, from Sean Clarke (75) and Rhys Jenkins (61), brought some respectability for the visitors as they closed on 222-9 from their 40 overs.

UNDER-9s BATTLE IN SHOWERS

BARRY Athletic under-9s were in action in their latest mini-festival, at a showery Cowbridge CC, where they took on Cowbridge, Penarth A and Cardiff A.

Battling through difficult conditions, the mini-Stags showed some promising cricket where they managed to win one of their three challenging matches, beating the hosts and pushing the other two all the way to the finish.

Everyone enjoyed their cricket very much and the Rim Motors man of the tournament went to Wesley Baker, for his fine all round display which brought two wickets in as many balls, a fantastic catch and some aggressive batting.

AB

Dinas bowlers keep on winning

DINAS POWY'S 1st team continued their winning start to the season with a home win in the first of their PG1 Division One league games.

At home to Merthyr West End, Dinas took an early lead and were five shots up after five ends. That set the pattern for the game, with Dinas ahead overall for the

whole match.

Dinas ended the game 82-70, with two rinks up and two down, giving them a 10-4 winning score.

Dinas skip scores: D Vowles, R Osborne, C Todd, G Williams 18-20; G White, M Clarke, M Woodcock, A Meddins 16-21; A Harvey, A Desrosiers, G Griffiths, N Leigh 25-15; M Diment, H Meddins, R Jones, M Ackland 23-14.

AD

PLAYERS WANTED

CADOXTON Imp Dragons under-11 are looking to recruit footballers for the forthcoming season.

The club trains Wednesday nights at Pencoedre fields between 6-30pm and 8pm and is looking to extend its squad in readiness for the 2011/12 season, playing 11-a-side football for the first time.

For the players chosen, kit will be provided on match days and an annual fee of £60 is paid prior to the start of the season.

All enquiries, telephone Arthur Thompson on 07702 556340.

Lady Taverners benefits from cookery demo in Vale

A COOKERY demonstration was held at Angela Gray's new Cookery School at Llanerch Vineyard last week in aid of the Lady Taverners, followed by lunch cooked by Angela.

The Lady Taverners, who raise funds to enhance the lives of children with special needs and those from deprived backgrounds, were delighted with the success of the day and most grateful to Angela for giving her time in supporting the charity.

If you wish to know more about the work of the charity visit www.lord-staverners.org

JANE JOHN



Ladies who lunch!

Presidential hand-over at Barry Soroptimists

AT the recent AGM of Soroptimist International, Barry and District, one of the final pleasant duties of outgoing president Mrs Judith Lewis of Pontyclun was to induct Mrs Linda Jones of Dinas Powys as a new member.

President Judith was delighted to welcome pharmacist Linda to the club, which has enjoyed another very successful year.

As well as the usual service projects such as the beach surveys at Jackson's Bay and visits to residents at Cartref Portceiri, the club also raised almost £4,500.

Donations were made to various charities, both home and abroad, ranging from Ty Hafan, Marie Curie, Welsh

Heritage Schools Initiative, various projects in Africa, and £1,250 to the president's charity, Water Aid.

Judith said she felt that the club had achieved its vision of being a vibrant, dynamic organisation involving all members through club meetings and activities.

In handing over to incoming president Norma Reynolds, she thanked members for their support, and expressed the hope that Norma would experience the same amount of pleasure from her year of office as she had enjoyed.

Incoming president Norma, who lives in Sully, is a retired geography teacher. Her vision for the year is to work with members with "Fun and Friendship."

Her main hobby is sailing, and this is reflected in her nominated charity, "Toe in the

Water," set up to inspire and help reintegrate severely disabled servicemen and women by taking part in top competition sailing.

Norma, her husband Tony, and children Huw and Sian are active volunteers.

To find out more about Soroptimism, visit www.soroptimist-gbi.org/barry-and-district/

CDS

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery this Friday, June 10, from 4pm to 6pm at 115, High Street, Barry.

No appointment is necessary. For further information, telephone the constituency office on 01446 740981.

Charity spring fayre

A SPRING fayre was opened recently at Age Concern's Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, by Jane Hutt AM and was very well supported by the local community, raising £200.

Ms Hutt congratulated the volunteers on their dedicated commitment.

Contact 01446 732385 for information on Ageing Well and Barry Good Neighbours.

You can now find The Glamorgan GEM on Facebook - just visit www.facebook.com/gemnews

Experience is the key for Wanderers

Abercynon 31 (19.0 overs); Barry Wanderers 33-0 (7.3 overs)

SPORT often throws up memorable battles between youth and experience, where existing values and hierarchies are challenged by the callow exuberance of teenage brilliance.

Thus it was last Saturday when Barry Wanderers' Second XI travelled deep into the Valleys to play an Abercynon side primarily made up of school-boys.

Asked to field first in overcast conditions, the Wanderers' captain Chris Barnes entrusted the new ball to the fiery Indian duo of KP Nakkanti and Krishna Nandan.

After a quiet start, during which time Abercynon had advanced to 17-0, things suddenly came to life in the sixth over, when KP knocked back the off stump with a good length ball.

This brought the next batsman to the wicket, and it was at this point that Abercynon's admirable youth policy was cruelly exposed. Stricken with nerves, the poor boy could barely hold his bat correctly, and proceeded to run his captain out before then missing a straight one.

At 21-3, the

Wanderers were now on top. KP breezed back to his mark and reduced the inexperienced Abercynon middle order to quivering wrecks, and the remaining batsmen offered little resistance to the rampant Wanderers' duo, collapsing to 25-7.

The impressive Krishna finished with 2-12, while KP recorded a season's best 4-11.

To mop up the tail, Barnes turned to Luke Denning and paceman ADW Wade. Denning bowled straight and full to take the last two Abercynon wickets, the innings closing with a mere 31 runs on the board.

Barnes rallied his battle-weary troops and Wanderers opened their chase with the unlikely combination of Matthew Burgin and Mark Ellis.

Having seen off the opening bowlers, and with the target now in sight, Ellis cut loose, planting a loose full-toss high over mid-wicket for four, followed by a trademark shovel through the on-side to win the game.

It was, in truth, a match that may not inspire, but it did at least deliver the salutary lesson that at this level there is little substitute for experience.

AF



ABOVE: Pictured at the end of a successful fundraising evening are (left to right): Paul Chapple (boxing coach); Ed Ellis, Aubrey Lewis (head coach of the boxing club); Jonathan Humphreys and Richard Humphreys.

RUGBY STARS OUT IN FORCE TO SUPPORT LOCAL BOXING CLUB

by PHILIP IRWIN

A star-studded evening last week at the Grand Pavilion gave a huge boost to a local boxing club's appeal to raise £75,000 for urgent refurbishments.

The evening – a sports forum with regional coaches Scott Johnson, Dai Young and Nigel Davies (and many more) – was also a family tribute, organised by the family of Colin Humphreys, a boxer who used to train with Porthcawl and Pyle Boxing Club 40 years ago.

In fact, at the end of the evening, the head coach of Pyle and Porthcawl, Aubrey Lewis, told THE GEM that he remembered sparring with Colin all those years ago.

Colin was a Welsh champion welter-weight who turned pro at 17, and seemed on his way to a meeting with Brian Curvis – until eye problems forced a premature end to his career.

Colin went on to raise a family and he continued to follow boxing, and in his later years, he told his sons that he wished he had been able to do more to support the club where he started.

Neither of his sons, Jonathan and Richard, followed him into boxing, but they both played rugby and several other sports, and the elder brother, Jonathan Humphreys, went on to be a Welsh international, representing Wales and the British Lions as a hooker, and is now a coach at the Ospreys.

When their father died, they remembered what he had said about the boxing club and organising the charity sports forum became a family affair, as they were joined by their brother-in-law, Ed Ellis, a former Llanelli rugby player and now the group finance operations manager with the Sinclair Group.

The Sinclair Group also sponsored the evening.

Richard, who is a teacher at Corneli Primary School, said: "Edward was the driving force behind this, and he did so much of the organisation. Jonathan and I helped and Jonathan, of course, used his rugby contacts to put the evening together."

He did a fine job, because the onstage panel for the forum consisted of the three regional chiefs already mentioned, Nicky Piper representing Welsh boxing, and more informed rugby opinion from Tom Shanklin and Danny Grewwcock.

Scrum V's Rick O'Shea, who went to UWIC with Jonathan Humphreys, proved to be a brilliant master of ceremonies, and the auction was conducted by Ospreys coach Sean Holley.

In fact, if the Ospreys backs had handled the ball this year as smoothly as Sean handled the auction, there would have been another piece of silverware in the Liberty Stadium trophy cabinet!

That auction saw a Kenny Dalglish signed Liverpool number seven shirt go for £600, and a Cesc Fabregas Spanish shirt go for £450.

A similar price was raised for a Swansea City shirt, worn in the play-off final at Wembley the previous Monday!

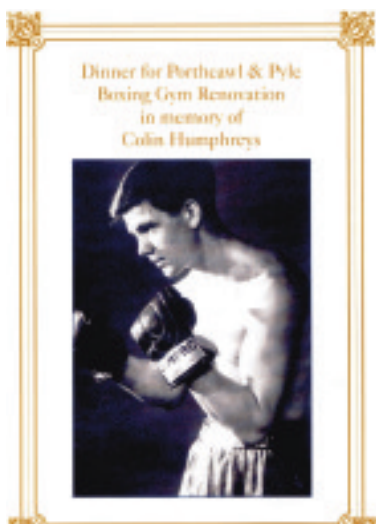
The total raised during the evening was an amazing £10,500, but donations of practical help with the project were offered as well.

What did the audience learn from the forum?

Well, we learned that Jonathan Humphreys once had to bail Rick O'Shea out of jail in Hawaii.

We learned that Dai Young and Jonathan Humphreys believe that the officials are making a mess of refereeing the scrums.

Oh, and thanks to a question by local head-teacher Martin Griffiths, we learned that Scott Johnson and Warren Gatland don't exchange Christmas cards!



ABOVE: Colin Humphreys in his prime.

Grant scheme boosts sport at local clubs

SPORTS clubs in the Vale have been given a record amount of funding this year through the 'Community Chest' grants scheme.

Run locally by the Vale Council's sports and play development team, and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales, the scheme now offers clubs and organisations up to £1,500 – an increase of £500 on the previous maximum amount available – to help them with things such as buying new equipment and paying for coaching qualifications.

The first round of grants awarded since the amount increased resulted in a total of £22,188.59 being invested into encouraging local people of all ages to get more active, more often.

Nineteen clubs and organisations shared the funding package, with Penarth Rifle Club, Vale Gymnastics, Rhosce Lifeguards and Barry Windsurfing Association

all scooping the maximum £1,500.

Sport for girls in the Vale was also given a boost, with the other grants including £1,482 for Sully Sports FC to establish a girls under-14s team, Barry Basketball Club receiving £1,300 to start a girls' team, and Penarth Cricket Club being awarded £1,000 to develop and support a team for girls at under-9s.

The Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies said: "The Community Chest scheme has now been in place for over a decade, and has helped hundreds of local clubs either get up and running or grow."

To discuss a potential Community Chest grant or to request an application form, telephone Karen Davies on 01446 704793 or Julie Morgan on 01446 704748.

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VALE CRICKET CLUB ROUND-UP

Batting costs team dear as they lose in league

A POOR batting performance cost Vale dearly as Pontypridd won this Second Division Glamorgan and Monmouthshire match by three wickets.

After deciding to bat first, Vale were soon on the back foot with both openers removed early by the accurate Martyn Oliver (2-14 off eight overs) leaving the score at 19-2.

A rebuilding job was then needed and provided by Tom Williams and Dean Oram, who steadied the ship and put on 65 for the third wicket before Williams was caught straight after the drinks break for a patient (20).

Vale skipper Matthew Williams and Oram then continued to push the score on at a healthy rate until Oram fell for a superb 59 to Ponty off spinner Tom Vaal with the score at 124-4.

Vaal (5/27 off 8) continued to pick up frequent wickets and snared skipper Williams for (28) leaving Vale delicately poised at 156-6. Ponty, through Andrew Collins (3-37 off 9) then cleaned up the Vale tail with some fine quick bowling as Vale collapsed to just 163 all out off 42 overs.

Having set such a disappointing total, Vale were reliant on their bowling attack to bail them out of trouble and they set about their task early with Nick Hogben (2-36 off 6.1) and Huw Morris (1-34 off 6) bowling some fine deliveries to leave the score at 47-3.

Then came the turn of spinner John W Davies and Tom Williams to bowl a fine spell of tight, disciplined bowling. Davies picked up (3-20 off 10) and Williams was unlucky to not pick up a wicket (0-32 off 10) leaving the score at 125-7.

However, Vale were left to rue dropping No 4 Ryan Williams early on as he went on to hit a match winning (63*) ably assisted by Vaal (19*) who put on an unbroken stand of 39 to see Ponty home.

Despite a battling performance in the field, Vale will look for a markedly improved batting performance against an in-form Miskin side next week.

VALE 2NDS KEEP ON WINNING

FOR the third game in a row, Vale skipper Mark Francis lost the toss and Gymkhana decided to bat under blue skies

and on what looked to be a warm day.

The Vale attack was opened by Darren Upham from the pavilion end and Chris Pike from the Bridgend end.

Upham was quickly into his stride making two early breakthroughs as he clean bowled one of the opening batsmen and critically removed the No 3 batsman within his first three overs.

The removal of the dangerous Rana at three with an excellent caught and bowled was vital for Vale's cause. At the other end Pike produced an economical six-over opening spell, only conceding 16 runs.

However, despite the sunny start, the weather took a turn for the worse as light drizzle swept in across the ground, taking the play-ers off the field for around 45 minutes.

On resumption, the captains agreed to reduce the game to 40 overs per side.

As play restarted, a new combination of Upham and Paul Gilbert operated in partnership and Upham soon removed the other opening batsman to leave Gymkhana 29-3.

Gilbert took the fourth wicket as he successfully got an lbw decision in his fifth over before immediately being removed from the attack by the skipper to make way for Tom Taylor.

At the pavilion end, Jack Davies replaced Upham but it was Taylor who struck next, getting an lbw decision to leave Gymkhana 76-5 off 30 overs.

Gymkhana then put the best partnership of the innings together (59) as they looked to up the scoring rate to try and post a competitive total.

This partnership was finally broken as Upham returned to the attack, picking up his fourth wicket of the innings as T Ahmed was removed lbw for a quickfire 48.

Taylor pick up the last wicket to fall as Archie Yates took a well judged catch at a deepish mid on. Gymkhana closed their innings on 143-7 off 40 overs.

The Vale bowling figures were Darren Upham 10-4-29-4, Chris Pike 6-1-16-0, Paul Gilbert 5-1-10-1, Jack Davies 8-2-24-0, Tom Taylor 9-0-41-2 and Mark Francis 2-0-16-0.

Vale needing just over three an over started their run chase in bright sunshine but soon lost an early wicket as Carl Brooks was bowled through the gate from a big inswinger.

Despite this early setback, Gareth Andrews and skipper Mark Francis started to build a solid partnership although it was not

without difficulty as the skipper was dropped behind early in his innings and a number of lbw shouts were made as the new ball swing around. Their 50 partnership was brought up in the 18th over as a foundation for victory was laid.

A feature of Vale's batting this season has been the consistent partnership building and this was continued as another 100 partnership was put on the board before Andrews fell for 43, clipping a catch to mid wicket which was well held.

The skipper perished shortly afterwards as he edged a ball to the 'keeper, cutting outside his off stump falling three runs short of another half century.

At this stage, Vale were 120-3 after 27 overs but there were to be no more scares as Chris Pike and Archie Yates saw the side home with a partnership of 24, with Pike finishing 10 not out and Yates batting well for 13 not out.

Cardiff Gymkhana 143-7 (40 overs); Vale 144-3 (31 overs); won by 7 wickets.

UNDER-STRENGTH 3RDS ARE DEFEATED

AN under-strength Vale third team were well beaten on Saturday after a fantastic bowling performance from Senghenydd, coupled with some costly running by the visiting side.

The home side won the toss and opted to bowl first, a decision that was quickly vindicated as both the opener (and skipper) Tom Johnson and No 3, Luke James were run out in quick succession.

Senghenydd (64-2, 9.5 overs) beat Vale III (59 AO, 27 overs) by 8 wickets.

RA

Hunt's golf day is big success!

ON June 1, a total of 48 golfers played at The Grove Golf Club near Porthcawl in the annual Glamorgan Hunt charity golf day.

Various businesses turned out to support the event, with 47 men and one female, Mrs Sarah Morris, who returned a score of 27 stableford points.

The weather stayed dry, apart from the wind, and all competitors remarked that the course was in great condition.

Tommy David, the popular former Wales and Barbarian rugby player, was kind enough to present the prizes. The team to take first prize was Priory Estates, Barry (Rees Williams, Pat Regan, Matt Gill,

Shaun Davies), with 117 points.

Second was The Lumberjacks (Western Log) – Rob James, Arwyn John, Dave Rees, Steve Griffiths, with 108 points.

Third, Maesteg Wanderers – Ken Williams, Alun Rees, Geraint Tucker, Dave Edmunds, with 105 points.

The individual men's went to Pat Regan (39 points), nearest the pin on the 4th was Jeff Williams, on the 7th Gerwin Tucker, on the 12th Richard Board, and on the 18th Matt Gill.

Organiser Gareth Perkins would like to thank all those who donated prizes, and to all the competitors for making it a most entertaining and enjoyable day.

GP

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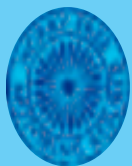
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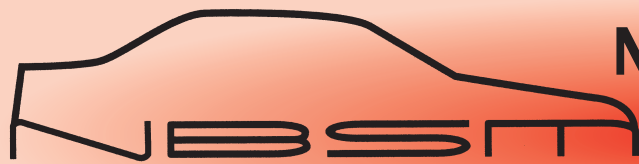
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FAMILY

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- 09 59 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback** in star dust silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles £12,995
- 09 09 FORD Focus 1.8 Titanium 5-dr hatchback.** In blue with anthracite interior, DAB radio/cd, cruise control, quick clear screen, reversing sensors, only 28,680 miles £9,995
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Derby day success for team

SULLY Centurions showed their thoroughbred pedigree as they celebrated Derby Day with a convincing 10-wicket victory over Swansea at Burnham Avenue.

Having lost the toss, Sully were asked to field on a hot afternoon, but David Eskins took two quick wickets to leave the visitors stunned at 0 for 2. After a few more overs, Eskins struck again to peg the score back to 30 for 3.

However, a century partnership between Ashley Pass and Nick James took the score along to 144 for the fourth wicket, when James fell to Mike O'Shea for a well-deserved 79.

O'Shea followed up by removing Hayden for a duck before Pass added 29 with Lowen and another 21 with Ceri James before he went for a well-made 61.

The final four wickets fell for just 10 runs, with Jamie Sylvester and Tom Evison bagging a pair each. The Swansea innings closed on 210 all out.

After tea, Centurions' opening pair of Mike O'Shea and Ryan Sylvester took no time at all in getting to grips with the Swansea attack, as they both dispatched the ball over the boundary ropes time and time again to leave the visitors reeling.

In spite of using seven bowlers, Swansea couldn't find a way through and both players passed the 50 mark with ease.

For once, though, Ryan took a back seat in the partnership, as Mike O'Shea showed why Glamorgan resigned him this season, reaching a well-deserved century.

Both batsmen were unbeaten at the end, with Ryan on 69 and Mike on 128, with Centurions reaching the target in the 27th over.

Sully 214-0; Swansea 210 all out. Second XI

THE Second XI came away from St Helen's with a huge victory over

Swansea Seconds by a margin of 136 runs.

Batting first, Centurions' opening pair Shaz Rehan and Rhett Jones enjoyed themselves, peppering the boundary at will.

Rhett had reached 94 when he was trapped lbw by Pavey, after sharing a stand of 164 for the first wicket.

Shaz and Shae Ellis took the score past 200 when Shaz was caught for 11, but Shaz followed soon after, departing for 84 with the score on 223.

Following this, skipper Matthew Thomas and Lloyd Bruce took the score along to 281 before Lloyd fell for 21. Matthew was 67 not out at the end, helping Centurions to a formidable 312 for 6.

The hosts were always trying play catch up and with Terry Williams, playing in his annual comeback match, proving just as accurate as ever, Swansea were never at the races.

A wicket for Terry before a run was scored was the dream start Centurions were after, but a half-century second-wicket stand between Morris and Suter gave Swansea some hope.

However, once this partnership had been broken, the wickets began to tumble. Only a stubborn seventh wicket stand of 42 from Antunes and Muralidhar gave the Swansea total any real respectability.

The innings closed on 176 all out with just one ball left in the 50th over, ensuring maximum points for Sully. Terry Williams' 3 for 40 and Lloyd Bruce's 3 for 41 were the notable bowling figures for Centurions.

Laurence O'Sullivan, Ben Callow and Matthew Thomas all picked up one wicket each.

Swansea 176 all out; Centurions 312-6.

Third XI

THE Thirds lost a closely fought match at Croesyceiliog-Woodlands after looking as though they may just snatch victory.

The hosts reached 206 for 5, in an innings that contained three run outs. But for a couple of slips in the field, the score may have been much less.

In response, Centurions kept up with the run rate for most of the innings, but just missed out. Nick Jones hit 40, Cameron Sleeth got 33 and Ben Spear finished on 31, but the target was to prove just out of reach, in spite of some sensible batting at the end from Herbie Miller and Dan Thacker (making his third XI debut along with son, Alex).

The innings closed with Centurions nine runs short, for the loss of seven wickets.

Croesyceiliog-Woodlands 206-5; Centurions 197-7.

Fourth XI

THE Fourths entertained Croesyceiliog-Woodlands at Rhose and came away with an emphatic victory and chalked up the first win of the season.

With regular skipper Mick Fisher away, Paul Harrison stepped into breach and got the best out of the troops – with Josh Bryan returning the remarkable figures of 4 for 12 off 10 overs.

Luke Burnett pitched in with 3 for 19 off 8 and, with a wicket each for Mark Burnett and Ricky Griffith, the Croesyceiliog side ended on 73 all out after 24 overs.

The Centurions' reply took only 14 overs, as Ricky Griffith (20) and David Sharpe (32) ensured the victory. Edwards, with 3 for 21 off 6 overs, was able to help the visitors salvage a couple of bowling points, but the victory was secured for the loss of four wickets.

Sully 74-4; Croesyceiliog-Woodlands 73 all out.

Sunday Friendly XI

ON Sunday, a mostly young Centurions side entertained Cardiff Casuals at Burnham Avenue and registered a 90-run victory.

SULLY CENTURIONS CRICKET ROUND-UP

Batting first, Centurions enjoyed themselves, with runs being spread around the team. Nick Jones (41) and Ben Spear (28) all helped push the score along and Josh Bryan top scored with 49, agonisingly close to getting his first 50 for the club.

Liam Bennett was 24 not out at the end as Sully ended on 216.

After tea, the Casuals batsmen couldn't get going, as Shae Ellis led the way for Centurions, with a very good bowling display, taking 3 for 7, ably supported by Scott McMillan, who bagged his first two senior wickets.

The rest of the wickets were shared out among the bowlers and Casuals were all out for 126.

Sully 206 all out; Cardiff Casuals 126 all out.

Own ground a reality
 SULLY Centurions Cricket Club took a step closer to owning their own ground this week.

The club currently plays at the council-owned Burnham Avenue in Sully (with third and fourth XI matches being played at Rhose and Wenvoe).

In April, the Vale Council granted planning permission to develop a new ground at the Glebe Field in Sully and, with help from local sponsors and also from the England & Wales Cricket Board, Centurions have finally been able to see work commence on the new facility.

It is hoped that the new ground will encourage more participation from locals, as well as providing the club with its own base for the first time in its history.

It is anticipated that the ground may see its first match within two years of completion.

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The first thing that came into my mind when I read Brian Radford's *Caught Out - Shocking Revelations of Corruption in International Cricket*, was what he and that other famous Glamorgan cricketer, Wilf Wooller, would have thought of the international cricket scene had they been alive today.

Maybe it's no surprise that Brian Radford, whose investigation into Lester Piggott's financial affairs concluded with the legendary jockey ending in prison, has now picked up his proverbial spade and dug deep into international cricket corruption.

Caught Out is the title of Radford's compelling new book on a virulent disease that is spreading fast and threatens to destroy all trust and integrity in the

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

world's most tranquil game. The vast volume of skulduggery and chicanery that Radford has unearthed is alarming and frightening.

Virtually every page is crammed with a chilling account of kidnapping, murder, death threats, poison, prostitutes and gambling gangs – and let's not forget we are talking about international cricket here, not the Mafia or Underworld mobsters.

Iconic players from practically every leading cricket nation are revealed as blatant cheats and crooks.

Chapter after chapter is devoted to outrageous trickery, like the sucking of peppermints to help England win the Ashes.

There is also a microscopic analysis of the mysterious death of former England batsman, Bob Woolmer, while head coach of the Pakistan national team, and the fascinating conspiracy theories surrounding the plane crash that killed disgraced South African

captain Hansie Cronje. These riveting revelations will shock and disgust all those who play cricket honestly at every level – whether it is at school, a local club, county level, or at the top in the international arena.

EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

THE South & West Wales Point-To-Point Area Injured Riders Fund is staging a family fun day at Merthyr Mawr near Bridgend, on June 26 from 12noon.

There will be a knockout rounders competition – £30 a team of 10 – and teams can register prior to the event by contacting Emma Jones on 07736 553011 or emailing her at ek.jones@btinternet.com

All proceeds go towards the area's Injured Riders Fund and Isabel Tompsett, recovery fund.

ery fund.

Isabel, who was seriously injured in a racing accident at Fakenham recently, is well known in the Vale.

The South Wales and Monmouthshire Point-To-Point dinner dance and presentation of annual awards will be held at the Holiday Inn, Newport, on July 9, and all proceeds will go to the Isabel Tompsett recovery fund.

Contact Dai Jones on 07736 553011 or Carole David on 0793 261384.

CRUSADERS UNDER-18 WARRINGTON WOLVES

CRUSADERS under-18s put on a show at Caerphilly RFC on Saturday as they waltzed to a 46-20 win over Warrington Wolves.

In one of the best performances seen by a Crusaders side at any level, the Welsh youngsters dominated both attack and defence as Warrington, save for the last 10 minutes when Crusaders were tiring, were always second best.

Welsh-born Ben Evans made his Warrington comeback following a knee reconstruction but it was his former Brynteg School team-mate Olly Olds who came out on top.

He may not have scored a try but he did well from half-back to help his team to a famous victory.

The rout started after less than two minutes when Courtney Davies leapt onto his own grubber to give Crusaders the lead converting his own try.

Four minutes later, a fumbled catch gave Crusaders a scrum on Warrington's 10-metre line and Rhys Watkins set up Seb Vidal, who rolled under the sticks.

Davies converted. On 23 minutes, it was 24-0 as Luke John was held up over the line, but Owen Thomas forced his way under the sticks a few plays later; Davies goal.

Warrington hit back on the half-hour when Sean Boyle finished off a fine passing move but the conversion was missed, and the Crusaders restored the balance when Luke John picked up a loose pass and ran 50 metres to the line; Davies converted.

Osian Phillips almost scored for Crusaders but was centimetres short and Dale Evans was pulled back for an infringement, but the Welsh weren't to be denied.

David Palmer did well to pick up a long pass and ran unchal-

Young Crusaders' excellent performance

up Gene Ormsby for an opening Warrington try, but the ball missed him and flew into touch.

Crusaders recovered and Davies set up their next try on 15 minutes, with TJ Collin finishing in the corner.

Davies converted brilliantly from the touchline to give Crusaders an 18-0 lead.

On 23 minutes, it was 24-0 as Luke John was held up over the line, but Owen Thomas forced his way under the sticks a few plays later; Davies goal.

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David Palmer did well to pick up a long pass and ran unchal-

lenged to score under the sticks. Olly Olds converted.

Warrington's relentless attacking eventually forced a try after Crusaders did well to keep them out for over 10 minutes.

Eventually, it was sub Ollie Giles who cracked the Welsh defence but again it wasn't converted.

Crusaders hit back with a superb try as Efan Ellis sold a dummy to beat the defence and score, but Davies missed the kick.

Ellis followed that up with a second as he twisted his way under the sticks with Davies converting.

Warrington managed to get two tries back to make the score seem more respectable with Sam Brooks and Callam Beckett going over, both converted by Jack Milligan, but they were mere consolations and a minor blip in a game that shows a lot about the development of youngster in south Wales.

IG

Dinas Powys FC have presentation night

DINAS POWYS Football Club senior section player of the year presentation took place at the Athletic Club on Saturday, June 4.

The first team finished seventh in Welsh League Division Two and the awards, presented by manager Marc Cahill, went to top scorer Mark Dunford (golden boot) with Jon Carpentier receiving both the player's and manager's player of the year award.

Reserve team manager Ricky Brown chose 'keeper Mark Hussey as his player of the year, with the players choosing Carl Huntley. The most improved player was Jordan Dimitri. The youth team finished third in the

Welsh League Youth Division with the player's player award going to Joe Briscoe. Joe made a number of substitute appearances for the first team during the season.

Manager Darren George gave his player of the year award to Rhys Davies and Mike Lazarou took the most improved player award.

The supporters club chose Jon Carpentier to receive the 'Malcolm Goddard' trophy as their player of the year.

Last, but by no means least, the clubman of the year award went to club secretary Dave Jose, who steps down this year after working so hard to the benefit of the club.

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GEM sport

The real Tests are yet to come...

BEFORE the kick-off there was plenty to celebrate – after all, the Baabaas team of all the talents were in town to mark the Welsh Rugby Union's 130th anniversary – with a massed choir of 1,000 male voices lined up to lead the singing on what promised to be a vintage occasion in Cardiff on Saturday.

With other notable landmarks, such as outside half Stephen Jones' record-equalling 100th capped appearance for Wales, the Blues' lauded outside Sam Warburton captaining his country for the first time, and the second coming of the enigmatic Gavin Henson after two years' self-imposed exile, the stage seemed set for a particularly intriguing 80 minutes of rugby at the Millennium Stadium.

After all, this was the first of just four outings remaining before Wales depart for the more serious business of Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand this September. Hence the controversial

decision to award Welsh caps for what was essentially an exhibition match with the Barbarians (a move not surprisingly questioned by former greats such as Mervyn Davies and Barry John).

In breaking with convention and awarding it full Test status, head coach Warren Gatland had implicitly declared that this was a game he fully expected to win, notwithstanding that a whole clutch of first choice players were absent from the team sheet.

Indeed, while all of those on duty against the Baabaas have subsequently been included in the preliminary 45-man Welsh squad for the World Cup, realistically many players know they will have a struggle to make the final cut of 30 that will head Down Under, let alone figure in the starting line-up when the real hostilities begin.

So in this sense, it really was a Test – if only of Welsh squad strength in a game-time environment – plus a rare opportunity to see how fringe candidates fared against some of the best players in the world in their individual positions

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

(albeit operating in an unfamiliar team line-up).

As expected where a Baabaas match is concerned, the tries came thick and fast – two for Wales in the first half (George North and Morgan Stoddart) to three by the Barbarians, (including one by man-of-the-match Sergio Parisse) to leave the home team trailing 14-19 at half time.

The second half then saw Wales forge ahead with two more tries, by Mike Phillips and Aled Brew (atoning for his 10 minutes in the sin bin) and this prompted a mass influx from the Wales replacement bench.

With eight minutes left and the score at 28-19, midfield general Stephen Jones departed, the Welsh camp presumably thinking the game was won.

If so, it was a fatal error – as not for the first time an error-prone Wales let victory slip through their fingers (almost literally) at the death.

In the blink of an eye, that

nine-point lead vanished with the Barbarians racing over for two quick tries, one of which was converted, to make the final score 31-28 in their favour.

While the Welsh camp may dismiss the result as of no real significance in terms of their World Cup prospects (given the absence of around nine first choice players and the unique nature of a Baabaas invitation fixture) they surely cannot have it both ways – for if it wasn't a serious Test match, why then classify it as such?

The reality is that in the final run-in to a World Cup, continued defeats can hardly be said to do wonders for the team's psychological well being, as Gatland's predecessor found when he took his team to play England at Twickenham before the last ill-fated World Cup campaign.

The Kiwi will certainly not want to see history repeated when the two teams meet again in August before flying Down Under.

Before then, the Welsh have much work to do in the two planned summer training camps, if the persistent problems that have stifled and afflicted Welsh play (again in evidence on Saturday) are to be ironed out in time.

These were succinctly summed up in post-match quotes by two of the players themselves.

Scarlets centre Jonathan Davies admitted: "We need to be more accurate and clinical when we get opportunities".

Dragons back rower Dan Lydiate acknowledged: "It's all about closing out games... We didn't do it and we got punished."

The challenge, come the World Cup, is to ensure that these basic flaws have at last been eliminated if another early exit is to be avoided.

PRELIMINARY SQUAD: Huw Bennett (Ospreys), Lloyd Burns (Dragons), Richard Hibbard (Ospreys), Matthew Rees (Scarlets).

Scott Andrews (Cardiff Blues), Ryan Bevington (Ospreys), Paul James (Ospreys), Gethin Jenkins (Cardiff Blues), Adam Jones (Ospreys), Craig Mitchell (Exeter Chiefs), John Yapp

(Cardiff Blues). Luke Charteris (Dragons), Bradley Davies (Blues), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Lou Reed (Scarlets). Gareth Delves (Melbourne Rebels), Toby Faletau (Dragons), Ryan Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Dragons), Rob McCusker (Scarlets), Andy Powell (Sale Sharks), Jonathan Thomas (Ospreys), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Josh Turnbull (Scarlets), Sam Warburton (Blues), Martyn Williams (Blues).

BACKS: Tavis Knoyle (Scarlets), Dwayne Peel (Sale Sharks), Mike Phillips (Ospreys), Richie Rees (Blues). Stephen Jones (Scarlets), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Jason Tovey (Dragons), James Hook (Perpignan).

Andrew Bishop (Ospreys), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Gavin Henson (Unattached), Jamie Roberts (Blues). George North (Scarlets), Aled Brew (Dragons), Morgan Stoddart (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets), Shane Williams (Ospreys). Lee Byrne (Clermont Auvergne), Leigh Halfpenny (Blues).

BARRY Athletic opened their Private Greens Division One programme with one of the most impressive bowling displays seen at Barry Island for many seasons.

Whitchurch, the visitors for the league opener and normally a strong force, found the Athletic bowlers in superb form.

The home team recorded a runaway 72 shot victory with a 125-53 score and 14 points.

Two big wins for Chris Blake (39-8) and

Dean Rees (35-12) gave Athletic their best PG1 win for many a season and augurs well for the remainder of their scheduled.

By coincidence, two rinks on the 12th end virtually destroyed Whitchurch. Dean Rees collected a maximum eight while on the next rink, Chris Blake rattled up a seven.

Add to this Robert Horgan's four and Glyn Thomas' three and the 12th end produced 22 shots – a grand across the board score for one end and something of a

Bowlers keep up form

record for Welsh Private Greens!

Wales Commonwealth Games bowler Blake's rink, comprising Dave Snelling, Kristian Harris and Geoff Whittaker, had a six on the eighth end giving them a comfortable 22-4 lead after just 10 ends.

Rees' rink (Jack Bealand, DK Williams and Ben Parrish) were always in control, while Robert Horgan's lineup with Luke Stanley, Dan Jones and Chris Wright, were consistent throughout their 27-11 win.

Glyn Thomas' rink (John Donovan, Paul Webley and Richard Cowling) was engaged in a close contest but a four on the 18th helped them to a narrow 24-22 success.

The Athletic's first squad are showing excellent early season form and have already reached the knock-out stages of the WBA

Carruthers Shield by convincingly winning their four qualifying matches.

Scores v Whitchurch:

D Snelling, K Harris, G Whittaker, C Blake 39-8; L Stanley, D Jones, C Wright, R Horgan 27-11; J Donovan, P Webley, R Cowling, G Thomas 24-22; J Bealand, D K Williams, B Parrish, D Rees 35-12.

The A team collected another 11 points from their PG2 away game at Merthyr West End.

Skip Colin Spillane again impressed and took top rink honours with a 24-14 scorecard in an in-form rink featuring Dan Evans, captain Paul Clarke and Gary Jones.

Billy Wright's rink (Eric Booker, Bill Summerell and Mike Vaughan) came in with a

20-15 score after trailing early on in the game.

Gareth Humphreys snatched a draw (17-17) in an exciting last end while Ivor Stevenson's rink went down 20-21, pipped on the final end.

Ivor's rink dropped a seven on the 13th end but a spirited recovery put them back in contention in what was another close contest.

Paul Clarke's PG2 team have won their

opening three fixtures and will be eager to extend their run on Saturday when they entertain Penarth Windsor; the first team are away at Penhill.

Scores v Merthyr West End:

D Evans, P Clarke, G Jones, C Spillane 24-14; C Phillips, B Turner, A Mintern, I Stevenson 20-21; A Thomas, J Ball, D Newman, G Humphreys 17-17; E Booker, B Summerell, M Vaughan, B Wright 20-15.

Last Wednesday night, the midweek

Munro Cup team registered their second away win of the season, beating Rhosce to gain 10 points; Dave Snelling was top rink (28-7).

Scores – Munro Cup at Rhosce:

J Bealand, G Thomas, L Stanley, D Snelling 28-7; S McKernan, J Coll, D Jones, B Whitlock 26-18; E Booker, J Morton, BWright, G Whittaker 15-16; A Thomas, A Pidduck, G Jones, C Wright 11-19.

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